

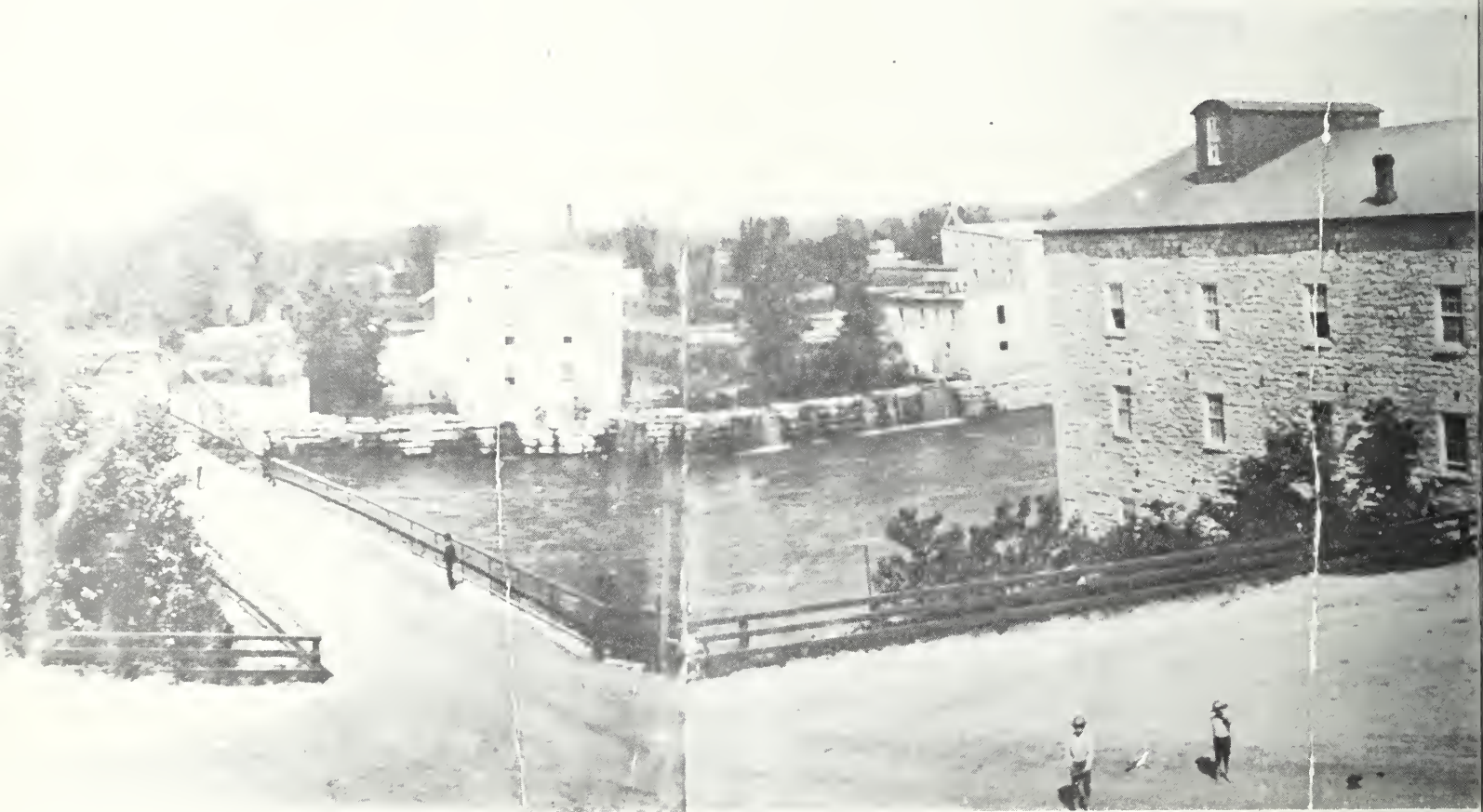
# BLUE RAPIDS CENTENNIAL 1870-1970



NS.

MISSOURI-KANSAS  
VILLAGE-KAN

## The Old Town



The large building in the foreground is the flour mill, to the right and north of this was a woolen mill.

In the narrow space between the two mills the pumping station of the Blue Rapids Water Works.

Still farther to the right with the sign on top of the building was a general store, and along the river

## THE KANSAS EMIGRANT

We cross the prairie as of old,  
The pilgrim crossed the sea  
To make the West, as they the East,  
The homestead of the free!

We go to rear a wall of men,  
On freedom's southern line,  
And plant beside the cotton tree,  
The hardy northern pine.

We're flowing from our native hills,  
As our free river flows  
The blessing of our father-land  
Is on us as we go.



# On The Blue



bank at the lower right hand corner of the picture may be seen the top of a shed where farmers could stable their teams while waiting for their grists at the mill.

On the west side of the river and to the south the Blue Rapids Plater C o. or the Fowler Mill.

Still farther north the paper mill.

We go to plant her common schools  
On distant prairie swells,  
And give the Sabbath of the wild  
The music of her bells.

Upbearing like the ark of old.  
The Bible in our van  
We go to test the truth of God  
Against the fraud of man.

No pause nor rest, but where the streams  
That feed the Kansas run,  
Save where our pilgrim gonfalon  
Shall flout the setting sun

We'll tread the prairies as of old  
Our fathers sailed the sea,  
And make the West, as they the East,  
The homestead of the free.

19

THIS IS THE YEAR  
FOR CELEBRATING

70



STREET SCENE, Blue Rapids, Kans.

Early days of Blue Rapids, a town to celebrate its centennial this year, is shown soon after business places were erected and the Fountain Park came into being. This was made unique by placing a square on the round. Note that all buildings look sharp, crisp, and new. Folks were proud to be called "Blue Rapids folks" and it is the same today in this thriving, industrious community of 1514.

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We wish to thank those who have made this book possible by the generous loan of their historical pictures, those who have given their time and help in preparing the story, and to everyone who has assisted in any way in the preparation of this book.

The Centennial Book Committee  
Mrs. Leola McLain, Chairman  
Mrs. Beulah Moore  
Mrs. Frances Stump  
Mrs. Maude Harris



Many years ago there was scarcely a vestige of civilization in the area that now contains Blue Rapids in Marshall County. For untold ages its prairies had been covered with a sea of waving grasses and vast herds of buffalo had, for numberless years wandered almost unmolested across them. Nothing disturbed its solitude, save occasional bands of nomadic savages, in search of prey or plunder and the hardy frontiersman who is always found far in advance of the onward march of civilization thus proving it could not always remain terra incognita.

One of the hardy frontiersman could have been General John C. Fremont. He writes, "On June 20, 1842, shortly after noon we reached the Big Blue and encamped on the uplands on the western side near a small creek, where there was a fine large spring of very cold water. This is a clear and handsome stream (referring to the Blue) about one hundred and twenty feet wide, running with a rapid current through a well timbered valley." The spring mentioned above was Alcove Springs, which is a short distance northwest of Blue Rapids.

Then in 1857, the first attempt to establish a town on the site of Blue Rapids, was laid out by James Waller, who lived on Elm Creek, Henry Poor and M. L. Duncan. Waller died, Poor shot and killed an officer in the army, then encamped at Marysville, and was obliged to leave the country. The town was abandoned by Duncan and the attempt to establish a town failed.

The land that was to be Blue Rapids had been pre-empted as homesteads by Enoch Hund, Andrew Scott, Henry Poor and Albert O. Porter. Eighty acres was railroad land.

## TOWNSITE

In the fall of 1859 a preliminary meeting of those interested in Kansas was held at LeRoy, Genesee Co., New York. At a later meeting held in Batavia, N. Y., a colony was organized with the following officers, Rev. C. F. Mussey, President; T. Holbrook, Vice President; S. A. Parmalee, Treasurer and C. J. Brown, Secretary.



S. A. Parmalee, Treasurer of the colony of men who helped start the town of Blue Rapids.

A location committee consisting of the present town site of Blue Rapids. During the winter of 1869 and 1870 the colony, numbering about 50 families, came out and immediately commenced improvements. A town site of 287 acres embracing

the water privileges was purchased of S. R. Craft and others at the cost of \$15,000 and 8,000 acres secured in farming lands.

Among the members of the original Colony and a greater part of who were located here were: S. H. Parmalee, T. Holbrook, R. Robertson, M. T. Coe, D. Fairbanks, S. Smith, J. T. Smith, H. S. Halbert, J. B. Waynant, C. J. Brown, J. D. Brown, T. F. Hall, C. E. Olmstead, J. L. Freeland, J. V. Coon, R. S. Craft, John McPherson, J. E. Ball, Y. Douglass, Jason Yurann, J. P. North, H. Woodard, E. L. Stone, J. S. Fisher, C. T. Roedell, C. J. Mussey, William Burr and others.

Those who composed the colony and others who joined the enterprise later, were of the best class of people from the several eastern towns who migrated to Kansas for the betterment of their finances and health, and if possible, to carry out contemplated ideas of a model community.

The water power was surveyed and found to possess manufacturing facilities of over 1500 horse power so the Town Co. constructed the dam costing \$50,000.

Each town lot was sold and distributed on the fixed condition that it never was to hold the foundation for a grog shop or a gambling house of any kind.

On the arrival of the colony at Blue Rapids, there were no buildings on the town site, with the exception of a small stone building erected years before. In the territory in which is now known as Blue Rapids City Township, settlements were made in 1857 on Elm Creek.

The colony erected a large two story frame building which was called "Colonial Hall" but the native or old settlers referred to it as the "Ark." This structure stood on the corner of 6th and Genesee Street. It was used by the colonists until other buildings could be built. In it was held the first church services and the first school. All meetings were held there and at one time a portion was used for a hotel and the other part for school purposes. The building was finally moved down to the river and used by the Buell Manufacturing Company.

When was the term "Blue Rapids" first applied to this vicinity? When the first settlers got here and before the present dam was constructed there were two riffles or "rapids" in the river, one opposite the property of Judge Thompson northwest of town which was known as the "upper rapids" and the other about 200 or 300 feet above the power dam which was known as the "lower rapids." When the county was first organized in 1855 the board of county commissioners divided it into two townships, the dividing line being one extending from the southerly boundary of the Otoe Indian reservation to the south boundary of the county at the point where Elm Creek empties into the Blue River. In 1858, the commissioners redistricted the county into four townships and the southwest one was named "Blue Rapids." This seems to have been the first time the name was used.

The history of Blue Rapids begins with the establishment of settlers most of whom were former residence of Genesee County, New York. By that date Marshall County had ceased to be a portion of the extreme frontier.

The townsite comprises portions of Sections 20 and 21 and 28 and 29 in township 4, Range 7. These four sections come to a corner in the rear of Mrs. Jessie Burr's residence on East Sixth Street. The lots on the north side of the Public Square are partly in Section 20 and partly in Section 28, the lines between the sections running across them from east to west. A quarter section of land lying between this line and Eleventh Street and extending from the west line of the W. R. Stump farm to a line midway between Genesee and Pomeroy Streets, was originally pre-empted, or "homesteaded" by Albert O. Parter. It changed hands several times and was

eventually purchased by Enoch S. Hunt. His holdings extended on both sides of the river and included the site of the Certain-  
 teed Products former mill. Just west of this tract was the  
 homestead of Andrew Scott which also extended on both sides  
 of the river. Just west of this were the original holding of  
 Henry W. Poor which included the site of the power dam,  
 the Marshall County Fair Grounds and a part of the block  
 south of the fair grounds. A tract of eighty acres in the south-  
 west part of town lying south of Poor's homestead between  
 a line midway between Genesee and Pomeroy Streets and  
 Gypsum Streets and extending south to the railroad, and also  
 that portion of the town lying south of the tracts, was originally  
 property of the railroad company and platted as Railroad  
 Addition to Blue Rapids, most of the remaining real estate  
 in the west or southwest portions of Blue Rapids was either  
 pre-empted or owned at one time or another by Judge William  
 Thompson.

On March 20, 1872, Judge Andrew S. Wilson, of the District  
 Court approved an order incorporating Blue Rapids as a city of  
 the third class under the statutes of Kansas.

The first dwelling completed on the townsite was erected  
 by J. B. Waynant at Fifth and Genesee Streets. Closely follow-  
 ing was the residence on the opposite side of the street. It  
 was built by Rev. Mussey and became the family home. A  
 few other houses were built in 1870, some of them were quite  
 temporary in character. Population, by the end of the year 1870  
 did not exceed 250.

# CHARTER

OF THE

## BLUE RAPIDS TOWN COMPANY.

### SECTION 1.—NAME.

The name of this Company shall be the Blue Rapids Town Company.

### SECTION 2.—PURPOSE.

This Company shall exist for the purpose of building a Town on the Blue Riv-  
 er in Marshall County, Kansas, at a point commonly known as the Blue Rapids, and  
 also, and in connection therewith, for the purpose of purchasing, holding, improv-  
 ing or conveying such property as the Company may deem for its interest to own  
 or convey.

Its office for the transaction of business shall be at the above location.

### SECTION 3.—TERM OF EXISTENCE.

The term of its existence shall be ten years, or such time less than ten years  
 as will satisfy the desires of the Company and as will enable it to meet the require-  
 ments of the law, both as to its existence and the liquidation of its affairs.

### SECTION 4.—CAPITAL.

The Capital Stock of this Company shall be as many thousand dollars as half  
 the number of the members of the Company at the time of filing this Charter in  
 the office of the Secretary of State, (Kansas,) with power to increase to double the  
 amount, which shall be divided into shares of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) each,  
 transferable only on the books of the Company, and according to the other pro-  
 visions of this Charter.

### SECTION 5.—MEMBERSHIP.

Each member of this Company must own five shares of its Stock and must be,  
 or purpose to become, an actual resident at or near the town called Blue Rapids,  
 by November 1st, 1870, or procure a substitute for himself who shall be acceptable  
 to the Company.

### SECTION 6.—MEMBERSHIP.

No person can become a member of this Company without the consent of a  
 majority of three-fourths.

### SECTION 7.—MEMBERSHIP.

As this is a Company for actual settlement and residence, no member shall be  
 allowed to furnish a substitute for himself except by consent of the same major-  
 ity.

### SECTION 8.—MEMBERSHIP.

Any person may become a member of this Company, after being voted in, by  
 signing its pledge and charter and by subscribing for five shares of its Stock.

### SECTION 9.—BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The corporate powers of this Company shall be vested in and exercised by a  
 Board of Directors, nine in number, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum  
 for the transaction of business. Each Director shall be a share-holder in this  
 Company, and shall be, or purpose to become a citizen of Kansas by the first of  
 July, 1870; and if he shall fail to become such by that time, his office shall be de-  
 clared vacant and another person shall be appointed in his place.

### SECTION 10.—MEMBERS OF FIRST BOARD, &c.

The following persons shall constitute the First Board of Directors of this Com-  
 pany:

C. F. MUSSEY,	Z. R. EVANS,	C. B. MATTHEWS,
WM. W. JEROME,	HENRY S. HALBERT,	— CRAFT,
JOHN B. BROWN,	YATES DOUGLASS,	V. R. NORTH.

They shall hold their office till the last Monday of December, 1870, or until oth-  
 ers are chosen in their place.

Each year an election shall be held, at which each Stockholder may, in person,  
 or by proxy, cast a number of votes equal to the number of shares which he owns  
 in this Company.

The requisite number of persons who shall receive the highest number of  
 votes shall be declared elected as Board of Directors. These persons thus elected  
 shall hold office till the next annual meeting, and if elected in their place, unless their  
 office shall be vacated by resignation or by death. Any vacancy in the Board of  
 Directors shall be filled by the Board.

### SECTION 11.—MEETINGS AND OFFICERS OF BOARD.

The Directors shall meet on the First Monday in January of each year, and  
 from their number they shall choose a President and Vice-President. They shall  
 also choose a Secretary and Treasurer from among the members of the Company.  
 A vacancy in any of these offices shall be filled by the Board. Any meeting of the  
 Board may be adjourned to any time and place which they may select; and all  
 meetings shall be held at such times and places as the Board may designate. A  
 meeting of the Board may be called by the President or, in his absence, by the  
 Vice-President, whenever he thinks the interests of the Company demand it, or  
 whenever any three Directors may request him so to do.

### SECTION 12.—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The President, Vice-President and Secretary, shall together constitute an Ex-  
 ecutive Committee, with such powers as may be defined by the By-Laws.

### SECTION 13.—AUDITING COMMITTEE.

There shall be an Auditing Committee of three persons, whose appointment  
 and duties shall be as required by the By-Laws.

### SECTION 14.—COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS.

The Compensation, if any, of the officers of this Company, shall be fixed by  
 the Stockholders at any Annual Meeting; if not so fixed, it may be done by the  
 Board of Directors.

### SECTION 15.—TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.

No person shall sell out his interest in the Town site of this Company,  
 without first offering it to the Company, at the lowest price at which he is willing  
 to take for it. If the Company, through its Board of Directors, reject the offer, he  
 may sell to whom he will.

### SECTION 16.—DIVISION OF PROPERTY.

The Property of this Company shall be divided among its Stockholders, ac-  
 cording to the special plan appended to the By-Laws.

The Board of Directors shall call and demand from the Stockholders, respec-  
 tively, such assessments upon their stock, at such time, and in such proportion  
 as they shall deem necessary for the prosperity of the Company; [pro-  
 vided, such necessary assessments have not been called in by the stock-holders  
 at their appointed meetings]. And if such sums of money, so assessed upon  
 their stock, are not paid by each stock-holder, within sixty days after notice re-  
 quiring the payment of such assessments shall have been given him, all the prop-  
 erty transferred by the Company to him, shall be holden for the amount of such  
 assessments.

### SECTION 17.

No stock of this Company shall be transferrable until all previous payments  
 thereon have been fully paid in, and until all other requisites of membership have  
 been complied with.

### SECTION 18.

Except as limited by the Charter and By-Laws, this Company shall have all  
 the powers and privileges, conferred by the laws of the State of Kansas upon like  
 corporations.

## BY-LAWS.

I.—It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the  
 Board of Directors and at the annual meetings of the Company, and to exercise a  
 general superintendence over the affairs of the Company.



The Vice President shall exercise the same powers in the absence of the President.

II.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary to attend all regular meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee; to give four weeks' notice of annual meetings of Stockholders by publishing it in the nearest newspaper in the County; to give notice of the meetings of the Board of Directors, also of the meetings of the Executive and Auditing Committees; to keep and file in his office minutes of the proceedings of the same, recording them in a book provided for that purpose, and to prepare all papers requiring publication for the press.

III.—It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and hold, and keep an accurate account of all moneys paid to the Company, in a book provided for that purpose, when, during business hours, shall be subject to inspection by any stockholder. He shall also pay all moneys upon orders drawn upon him by the Secretary and countersigned by the President or Vice President, and no order shall be drawn upon him by the Secretary, except by direction of the Auditors or Executive Committee.

The Treasurer shall, on entering upon his duties, execute a bond for the faithful discharge of his duties, in such sum of money and with such securities as the Board of Directors may approve.

IV.—The Board of Auditors shall be appointed from the Board of Directors and by them at their annual meetings, whose duty it shall be to examine and audit all accounts of the officers or agents of the Company, and all claims for services rendered, and to allow the same, if they are just. They shall meet twice in the year on the 3d Tuesday of June and December to examine and audit all accounts, and all persons having claims against the Company are requested to meet the Board and present them at that time.

V.—The Executive Committee shall carry into effect the enactments of the Board of Directors, and shall be empowered to act in place of the Board of Directors in such cases as require such immediate action as precludes the possibility of calling the Board together; also to act in place of the Auditing Board when minor claims must be allowed or adjusted.

## PLEDGE.

We, the undersigned, in becoming Members of the "Blue Rapids Town Company," for the purpose stated in the Charter and By-Laws of said Company, do hereby make to each other the following pledge:

1.—We pledge ourselves to each other to go as actual settlers to the location selected by the authorized agents of this Company, or to furnish in our stead a substitute acceptable to the Company,

2.—We pledge ourselves to each other to become actual settlers upon such location at the earliest practicable moment; in no case later than Nov. 1st, 1870, and if possible, as soon as the 1st of May of the same year.

3.—We pledge ourselves to each other to make some improvement, by Nov. 1 1870, upon our individual property at or near the central place of settlement—such improvement as will indicate an interest in the permanent settlement and prosperity of the Colony.

4.—We pledge ourselves to each other that by all fair and legal means, we will use our influence for excluding the sale and use of all spirituous and malt liquors as a beverage, from the town which shall be organized by this Company.

5.—We pledge ourselves to each other that, in all our transactions as a Company, we will obey and abide by the Charter and By-Laws adopted by the Company.

## PLAN

[For the Division of the Property of the Town Company.]

A Commission appointed for that purpose shall survey the Town Site of this Company and lay out the requisite streets and divide the land, not taken up by the streets, into lots and in the approval of the Board of Directors make a plat of the Town site thus divided. They shall set apart such lots as in their judgement should be designated for public purposes, and then divide the lots into parcels containing each as many lots as the whole number of lots divided by the number of memberships, (e. g. 500 lots 50 members). Scrupulously endeavoring to make each parcel equal in value to every other parcel. They shall submit this division of lots to such members of the Company as may be on the ground, for approval; and when approved, they shall prepare and number as many slips of paper as there are parcels (say from 1 to 50) and cause a disinterested person, in their presence to draw these, one at a time from a hat, and each parcel shall be assigned as his division of the Town site, to that member of the Company whose name shall be drawn from another hat containing the names of the members each on a slip of paper.

The farm lands purchased by the Company of the Railroad Co., shall be sold to members of the Company in farms of 160 or less acres, each, at the price paid to the Railroad Co., with such equitable addition of price as the Commissioners may affix, as will enable the Company to meet the expenses in the transfer.

After each colonist shall have had the privilege of buying 160 acres, the remaining lands may be sold at such prices as the market may call for and at the discretion of the Board of Directors; it being understood in all cases that if more than one person desires the same piece of land, it shall be drawn by lot.

The other lands of the Company shall be divided into such sized lots as the Board of Directors may determine and be sold at their market value, or held in common for a time, according to the discretion of the Board.

All property hereafter to be acquired, if any, shall be disposed of as the Board of Directors shall see fit.

All profits of the Company shall be divided proportionally among the shareholders.

## OFFICERS

[For the Year Beginning January 1st, 1870.]

C. F. MUSSEY,	President.
J. B. BROWN,	Vice President.
S. H. PARMALEE,	Treasurer.
C. J. BROWN,	Secretary.

## RESIDENTS OF 1870

C. F. Mussey and Family  
J. H. Brown and Family  
C. J. Brown  
H. S. Halbert and Family  
S. H. Parmalee and Family  
Howard Parmalee and Family  
Taylor Holbrook  
Flagler Passage  
Dr. R. S. Craft and Family  
Yates Douglass  
Augustus Borck  
N. Zell  
Joseph Grimm  
A. W. Stevens  
Capt. A. D. Gaston  
C. B. Mathews  
H. V. Mathews  
E. D. Wheeler  
Fred J. Jacob  
J. B. Waynant and Family  
Charles E. Tibbets and Family  
N. Holsted and Family  
L. W. Darling and Family  
C. E. Olmstead  
J. L. Freeland and Family  
Guy R. Brown and Family  
Samuel Hill and Family  
J. H. Fowler and Family  
Jackson Taylor and Family  
A. W. Kimball and Family

John McPherson and Family  
C. Y. Reed and Family  
J. S. Fisher and Family  
D. Fairbanks and Family  
A. J. Bovee and Family  
Charles True and Family  
Thomas Oakley  
James Allerdiee  
W. D. McPherson  
J. C. Harland  
D. B. Taylor and Family  
H. Van Dusen and Family  
D. Minium and Family  
C. B. Stone  
J. W. Davis and Family  
H. Armstrong and Family  
W. E. Brown and Family  
H. W. Jackson and Family  
J. T. Smith and Family  
William Brown  
George S. Smythe and Family  
Dr. R. A. Wells and Family  
J. S. Stanley  
J. L. Herrick  
William Burr, Sr.  
Doctor Ream  
George Kempton and Family  
J. E. Ball and Family  
James Hunt and Family  
J. C. Frissell and Family.

On December 31, 1870, there were about 250 people in Blue Rapids.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

# EXTRA.

Blue Rapids Times,

March 25th, 1872.

## ELECTION NOTICE.

### CORPORATION ELECTION AND ORDER.

WHEREAS on this 20th, day of March A. D., 1872, a certain petition signed by a majority of the electors of the town or village of Blue Rapids, in the County of Marshall, State of Kansas, has this day been presented to me, praying that said town or village be incorporated as a city of the third class. And it appearing that said town or village contains at least two hundred and fifty inhabitants and not over two thousand; that the metes and bounds of said town or village are fully set forth in

said petition; that said petition has been published in full, three consecutive weeks in the Blue Rapids "Times" a newspaper published in said town or village, and that full compliance has been had with the

Now therefore, I, A. S. Wilson, Judge of the 12th District Court of the State of Kansas, in and for Marshall County, at Chambers do hereby declare said town or village duly incorporated as a city of the Third Class by the name and style of "The City of Blue Rapids," and designate the metes and bounds thereof to be as follows, to wit: Beginning at the center of the county road running east from Waterville to Frankfort in said county of Marshall on the north and south parallel line extending through the center of sections Nos. 16 and 21, Town 4 south, range 7 east in said Marshall county; thence running due west to the section line between sections Nos. 20 and 21; thence due north on section line to the north west corner stone of section No. 21; thence due west on section line to the quarter stone between sections Nos. 17 and 20; thence due south to the quarter stone on the south line of section 20; thence west to the south west corner stone of section No. 20; thence due south to south west corner stone of section No. 29; thence due east on section line to the quarter stone between sections Nos. 28 and 33; thence north through the center of sections Nos. 28 and 21 to the point of beginning, all being in town 4, range 7 east.

And I do further order that the first election in said city for city officers shall be held at "Colonial Hall" (so called) within said metes and bounds on Tuesday the second (2d) day of April, A. D. 1872. And I do designate J. L. Freeland, J. S. Fisher and Gideon Fitzgerald as Judges of said election, and also J. A. Loban and Frank Hall as Clerks of said election, and also T. F. Hall, S. H. Parmelee and Augustus Arnold as a board of canvassers, all of the aforesaid Judges, Clerks and Canvassers to be qualified electors of said city.

Given under my hand at Chambers this  
March 20th, A. D. 1872.

A. S. WILSON,

Judge of the 12th Judicial District of  
the State of Kansas.

## Warranty Deed.

FROM

Blue Rapids Town Company

TO

Andrew Festine,

STATE OF KANSAS, }  
MARSHALL COUNTY } SS!

Office of

Register of Deeds.

*This Instrument was filed for  
record on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of  
January, A. D. 1872.  
at 1 o'clock P. M., and duly  
recorded in Vol. C. of Deeds, at  
page 490*

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

*J. G. McIntire*  
"Recorder" Print, Irving, Kansas.

*J. G. McIntire*  
Reg. Deeds



**This Indenture,** Made this 12 day of January  
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and 72 between the BLUE RAPIDS TOWN COM-  
PANY, of the County of Marshall, and State of Kansas, of the first part, and Andrew Hestine  
of the County of Marshall and State of Kansas

of the second part :

**Witnesseth,** that the party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of One Hundred  
dollars, to it duly paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and the further consideration of the said  
Andrew Hestine, his heirs or assigns abstaining from and prohibiting the sale of all spirituous liquors as  
a beverage upon the premises, doth hereby sell and convey unto the said party of the second part his heirs or  
assigns, the following described property, situated in the town of Blue Rapids, County of Marshall, and State of Kansas,  
to wit: Lot No. Thirty Seven (37) Lincoln Street, as  
per plat of Blue Rapids recorded in the clerk's  
office of Marshall County - Kansas -

and all the estate title, and interest of the said party of the first part therein excepting the privilege of selling or manu-  
facturing spirituous liquors. This sale and conveyance being made with the distinct understanding that the provision in  
relation to the sale of spirituous liquors, becomes, at the delivery hereof, an entailment upon the said property; and in  
case said party of the second part his heirs or assigns, or any tenant or lessee holding thereunder, shall violate  
said provision, then the title in fee simple of the property shall revert to the party of the first part, unless the Blue Rapids  
Town Company shall have ceased to exist, in which case it shall become the property of the school district in which the  
lot may then be situated. And the Blue Rapids Town Company doth hereby covenant and agree that it is lawfully  
seized of the above described premises, that it has good right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same, and that  
it will warrant and defend said premises against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever, excepting in cases where  
the party of the second part, heirs or assigns, or any lessee holding thereunder violates the above stipulation in relation to  
the sale of spirituous liquors as a beverage on said premises herein described.

**In Witness Whereof,** The said party of the first part has hereunto set its seal the day and year above  
written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

C. F. Mussey, President { SEAL. }  
J. B. Maynard Secy { Seal }

**THE STATE OF KANSAS,** { SS.  
COUNTY OF MARSHALL.

On this 12 day of January

A. D. 1872 before me A Justice of the Peace in and for said County came

C. F. Mussey Pres. And J. B. Maynard Secy of B. R. T. Co

to me personally known to be the identical persons authorized to affix the corporate seal of the Blue Rapids Town Com-  
pany, and acknowledged that he affixed the corporate seal of said Company to the above conveyance, and that the same  
was his own voluntary act and deed.

**In Testimony Whereof,** I have hereunto subscribed my name, and affixed my official seal on the day  
and year last above written.

{ SEAL. }

J. L. Speckard  
Justice of the Peace



## CITY OFFICIALS (Mayors)

1872 - C. E. Olmstead	1919 - A. R. Dean
1873 - C. E. Olmstead	1921 - F. A. Train
1874 - John McPherson	1923 - A. R. Dean
1875 - John McPherson	1925 - F. A. Train
1876 - A. E. Sweetland	1927 - R. G. Baldwin
1877 - A. E. Sweetland	1929 - R. G. Baldwin
1878 - W. A. Briggs	1931 - C. W. Moser
1879 - W. A. Briggs	1933 - A. R. Dean
1880 - John McPherson	1935 - Frank Griffiee
1881 - A. J. Loomis	1937 - Frank Griffiee
1882 - A. J. Loomis	1939 - Frank Griffiee
1883 - Wm. Burr, Sr.	1941 - W. A. Younquist
1884 - Wm. Burr, Sr.	1943 - W. A. Younquist
1885 - John V. Coon	1945 - W. A. Younquist
1886 - John V. Coon	1947 - G. Van Valkenburgh
1887 - Fred Stocks	1948 - G. Van Valkenburgh
1888 - A. J. Loomis	1949 - G. Van Valkenburgh
1889 - E. M. Brice	1950 - Wm. E. Glynn
1890 - M. L. Duncan	1951 - Edwin Hnizda
1891 - Jason Yurann	1952 - Edwin Hnizda
1892 - J. B. Miller	1953 - Edwin Hnizda
1893 - Jason Yurann	1954 - Edwin Hnizda
1894 - John V. Coon	1955 - Herbert Hickman
1895 - I. S. Taber	1956 - Herbert Hickman
1896 - A. E. Winter	1957 - Kenneth W. Brown
1897 - A. E. Winter	1958 - John Kotapish
1898 - C. Coulter	1959 - Ora Persell
1899 - C. Coulter	1960 - Ora Persell
1900 - W. P. Brown	1961 - Edwin Kittner and Harold Osborne
1901 - W. P. Brown	1962 - Harold Osborne
1902 - W. P. Brown	1963 - Harold Osborne
1903 - L. B. Tibbetts	1964 - Harold Osborne
1905 - G. W. Fairbanks	1965 - Arthur L. Roy
1907 - F. A. Train	1966 - Arthur L. Roy
1909 - C. E. Cummings	1967 - Robert Walsh and Harry Dunmire
1911 - Frank Marvin	1968 - Harry Dunmire
1913 - J. N. Wanamaker	1969 - Harold L. Lawless
1915 - A. R. Dean	1970 - Harold L. Lawless
1917 - A. R. Dean	

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### DOCTORS

Dr. R. A. Wells M. D.  
 Dr. Rufus Craft, M. D.  
 Dr. William Hunter, M. D.  
 Dr. Rollin Fillmore, M. D.  
 Dr. W. W. Reed, M. D.  
 Dr. C. R. McFarland, M. D.  
 Dr. W. L. Wilmoth, M. D.  
 Dr. E. Schumaun, M. D.  
 Dr. Harold Lawless, M. D.

### CHIROPRACTORS

Drs. Cauble and Cauble  
 Dr. Halstead  
 Dr. Simmons  
 Dr. Riche  
 Dr. Lynn Walker

### DENTISTS

Dr. Sam Gilson  
 Dr. Shearer  
 Dr. Marker  
 Dr. William McCormick  
 Dr. Fred Weyh  
 Dr. Donald Botkin

### VETERINARIANS

Dr. A. B. Magill  
 Dr. Stewart  
 Dr. Roy Baldwin  
 Dr. H. A. Steinfert

## CHURCHES

### BLUE RAPIDS METHODIST CHURCH

The first church services to be held in this vicinity consisted of a Methodist class organized by Mrs. Eliza Paul in 1858, soon after coming to Marshall County. Meetings were held at her home for several years.

Steps were taken in late 1870 to organize a Methodist Church. Sixteen charter members were present at this organizational meeting. Church services were then held in Colonial Hall and sometimes in the homes for the next five years. In 1876 a church was built of native limestone at a cost of \$2,200. It was dedicated September 24, 1876. In 1908, the remodeled and enlarged church was dedicated. During later years the basement has been enlarged to provide more classrooms, social rooms and a well equipped kitchen.

Gifts and memorials have added to the beauty of the altar and sanctuary. The ever-working ladies' organizations have assisted greatly in much of the redecorating, recently adding the carpet and drapes when the church office was redecorated.

The churches of the conferences united with the Evangelical United Brethern churches in 1968 and since then they have the name of United Methodist Church. The Blue Rapids United Methodist Church is a member of the East Kansas Conference, Topeka District.

The Rev. William H. Winter became the church pastor in June, 1969.



UNITED METHODIST

### SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This was organized as a mission church in 1871. At its initial organization, St. Mark's underwent many of the tribulations of small churches. No rector was available and no definite records were kept but services were held periodically in available public halls. In the early years, apparently it became inactive, but in 1888, the mission was revived and occasional services were held.

In 1901, the Reverend H. C. Attwater came as pastor. Services were held in Olmstead Hall (over the library). The Congregational Church which was located at Sixth and Lincoln was built in 1882 was no longer in use. The members of St.



Mark's rented that for a time and in 1904 purchased the building and this has been their church home since that time.

Many improvements have been added to the church during the years. In 1953, the Parish Hall was built and has been of great value to the church and to the community.



ST. MARKS EPISCOPAL

### TRINITY CHURCH, IRVING

The church at Irving was organized in 1874 and the building erected in 1879, through the efforts of the Dolan family from New York City. One of the Dolans, Mrs. Frances DeForest gave \$3,000 to the Diocese of Kansas as a trust fund, the interest from this fund, being used to pay the salaries of the clergy in and around Irving.

The membership has been small and they weathered many lean years. The Woman's Auxiliary remained active through the years and it was through this organization that restoration of the church to its original prominence and beauty was accomplished, after a lapse of activity for many years. Through the contributions of materials, time and talent the project was completed by summer, 1956. On Christmas Eve, 1957, services by a priest were resumed. The first class in thirty-five years was confirmed by Bishop Turner in Trinity Church, May 7, 1958.

Then came the time when Tuttle Creek Reservoir forced people from the area. Members of the church affiliated with other churches where they went to make their homes. Many families moved to Blue Rapids and were welcomed to St. Mark's. This became their church home, made more so by some of the Trinity Church furnishings being added to St. Mark's.

The Rev. Don Barton has served this church as vicar from June 1967 to April 1970.

### BLUE RAPIDS BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church was organized December 1, 1872, under the guidance of Rev. G. Gates, with 23 members. In 1873 the construction of the first church building was completed. This was a small structure that stood just west of the present building. This building was the first house of worship erected in Blue Rapids. The present brick structure was built in 1911 when Rev. J. P. Henson was pastor. Seven beautiful Memorial windows add to the beauty and distinction of the sanctuary.

On a Sunday morning September 16, 1934, the Baptist Church building caught fire and was badly damaged. Just three months to the day, a rededication of the church was held. During the rebuilding, services were held in the second story of the Variety Store building. It was indeed a happy day, December 16, 1934, when they could worship in their lovely church again.

Upon dissolution of the Midwest Association of Regular Baptist Churches in 1969, the church joined the Mid-Continental Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

Through gifts of friends, and Memorial gifts, addition of pulpit furniture and other supplies add much to the services. A Baldwin piano was added in 1966.

The Reverend Lyle Ahrenholtz came in March 1968 to serve the Baptist Church.



BLUE RAPIDS BAPTIST CHURCH

### SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

In the mid-eighties there were about 75 colored residents who wanted a church of their own. About 1900, the Second Baptist Church was established. A popular subscription was started to provide funds to build a church and "white folks" liberally contributed. The plain little chapel was put up at the corner of 11th and Main.

Here the Rev. Isaiah Walker, a stone mason by trade, held the Sabbath services for many years. A daughter, Mrs. W. H. Frances, very capably led the services when no one else was available.



The march of time caused the church congregation to dwindle as death claimed many and others moved to the cities for more opportunities. The church was closed and later became the property of the flour mill which used it as a warehouse. Eventually it was demolished.

## SAINT ELIZABETH'S CHURCH, IRVING--BLUE RAPIDS

This church was built in 1913 to provide for the needs of its congregation after the St. Winceclaus parish, eight miles southwest of Irving voted to disband, and also to unite the Catholics at Springside and those around Irving. When it was voted in October 1912 to build a new church at Irving, four lots were donated, two by James Denton and two by Mrs. De-Forest. The church, a frame structure 36 feet by 75 feet was built early in 1913 and dedicated June 5, 1913, by the Most Reverend Bishop Ward assisted by fifteen priests. The church



SAINT ELIZABETH'S CHURCH

was named Saint Elizabeth in compliment to Herman Feigner's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Feigner. This privilege was given Mr. Feigner as the largest donor to the new church. Gertrude Forst Protiva was the Church's first organist. Mrs. Kate Bornhorst, now a resident of Blue Rapids, was church organist for over 40 years.

St. Elizabeth's Church was moved from Irving to Blue Rapids in 1961 due to Tuttle Creek Reservoir. It is located at the southern end of East Avenue. Building changes and improvements were made providing kitchen and social rooms in the basement. Dedication ceremonies were held June 25, 1961, with Archbishop Hunkeler presiding.

Father James Wright, the pastor at the present time, began serving this church in 1967.

## BLUE RAPIDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The First Presbyterian Church of Blue Rapids was organized on May 1, 1870, by the Rev. C. F. Mussey, the first pastor. There were twenty-four charter members. Meetings were held in Colonial Hall and other public buildings until 1875, when a church was erected at a cost of \$4,000. The native stone structure was dedicated October 14, 1875. Improvements through the years have provided more rooms for classes, social activities, and a modern kitchen in the basement. The enlarging of the sanctuary and addition of the pastor's study have enhanced the churches use and beauty. A Hammond organ, a public address system, and a church radio broadcasting system add much to the worship service.



BLUE RAPIDS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On October 26, 1862, the First Presbyterian Church of Irving was organized by the Rev. Charles Parker. In 1869, a church was erected at a cost of \$5,000. It was dedicated November 30, 1871. In 1879 this church was destroyed by a cyclone. The members rebuilt the church the same year. Throughout the years the church continued to grow in membership and service. On July 1, 1958, due to Irving disbanding because of Tuttle Creek Reservoir, the Irving Church merged with the Blue Rapids Presbyterian Church to make one of the strongest churches in our community. The native stone and the Stained glass windows from the Irving Church were used to



enlarge the First Presbyterian Church, making it truly a church merger, in structure, in membership, and in faith.

In August, 1969, the Rev. Ralph Davis came to serve as pastor of the Blue Rapids Presbyterian Church and to the Czech Presbyterian Church south of Blue Rapids.

## CZECH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Czech community was first settled between 1865 and 1870 by descendants of the inhabitants of the small countries known as Bohemia and Moravia, now known as Czechoslovakia. Religious reformation and restrictions prompted the movement to other lands. Many of these people settled in Riley and Marshall counties in hopes of less strife, better homes, and religious freedom. Early Czech families were the Smerchek, Moses, Hula, Sedivy, Pishny and Musil families. A religious people, they held worship services in the different homes.

On September 10, 1893, the Czech Presbyterian Church was organized, with meetings held in the Swede Creek Schoolhouse, and members of the congregation leading the service when a regular minister was not available. Money and labor brought about the building of a church. It was hardly finished when on May 2, 1894, lightning struck it and the church was completely destroyed. They felt that the building again was impossible, but encouragement and money from many sources soon made rebuilding a reality and work was started that summer.

Mr. Scheller, who did so much to encourage and lead these people in establishing their church, served two summers as student pastor and two years as its pastor.

In 1905 the church was moved to its present location to better serve the people of the community. Second and third generations of the founders of the church are now active members.

The Rev. Ralph Davis began his pastorate here in August, 1969.



CZECH PRESBYTERIAN

## LATTER DAY SAINTS CHURCH

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was organized in 1898. About 1903 they built the neat little chapel at the corner of 4th and Genesee Streets. This group is a branch of the Mormon Church. At one time, Hale Smith, grandson of Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon church, conducted services at this place.

In the present day, guest speakers serve the church regularly. Mission pastor is Benjamin F. Shriner.



LATTER DAY SAINTS

## INDUSTRIES OF BLUE RAPIDS

By the end of 1871 the professions were represented in Blue Rapids by: Rev. Mussey and Rev. Benjamin Franklin Smith (Methodist minister), Dr. R. A. Wells, a physician from New York state had opened an office in the second story of the bank building. Judge W. H. Goodwin, was first attorney, also had an office in the bank building.

In addition the town had: 4 general stores, 2 hotels, 2 lumber yards, hardware store, drug store, furniture store, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, Post office, Bank and a weekly paper.

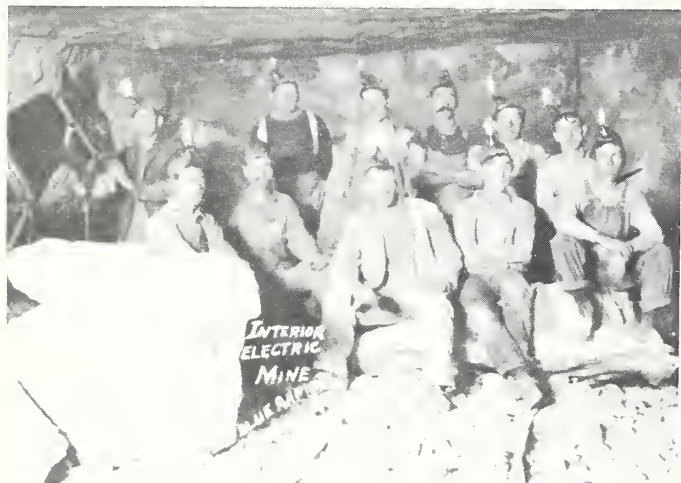
## GYPSUM INDUSTRY BEGAN WITH TOWN



The great Western Plaster Mill, one of four gypsum industries in Blue Rapids when it began a 100 years ago. The deposits of pure, white gypsum rock at this point were, and still are, extensive and apparently inexhaustable. The four mills produced stucco, plaster board, hollow blocks and other items of building material and employed an average of 250 men with



a monthly payroll of \$15,000 at that time. This is part of the industry that made Blue Rapids grow. The picture is thought to have been taken in about 1906.



The Night Shift taken in 1906 at U. S. G. Blue Valley west of Blue Rapids. Two that are identified are Cyrus Morrow and Anton Musil, both standing behind the truck loaded with plaster.

In 1871 Blue Rapids was visited by Judge John V. Coon of Elyria, Ohio. He was a native of Weolern, N. Y. and somewhat acquainted with the uses of gypsum. He took samples of the rock in it's natural state and also "burned" rock back with him and submitted them to experts at Cleveland, Ohio, who pronounced the material suitable for the manufacture of plaster of paris.

The judge and his brother who was experienced in manufacturing plaster of paris, returned the next year and began operations by erecting a shed on the east bank of the river below the dam, calcining the product in a large kettle heated by a stove.

In 1874 they erected a stone building on the west side of the river. The machinery, as far as can be ascertained consisted of a jaw crusher, a crude form of nipper and a run of buhrs to reduce the pebble gypsum to raw plaster. Calcining was done by a dry kiln and then the product was run through

a reel clothed with a wire cloth of fine mesh. What dusted through was collected and sold for dental or molded plaster and the remainder for use as wall plaster. Overhead expenses were heavy.

Rock was teamed from a quarry northwest of Blue Rapids, then teamed to Missouri Pacific for shipment.



Interior of mine at Great Western Gypsum Co. and later known as Certain-Teed, Bestwall and Georgia Pacific. The picture was taken when the mill was located just north of the Blue River. Men are identified as follows: Roof man - Clarence (Bud) Houser; Pointing - Jeb Jenkins; Standing near track on right side - Charles (Colonel) Davis; On drill in background - Amon Reedy.

## GYP

To many people of the Blue Rapids Community and other Marshall Countians the "gyp mill" is a symbol of early pioneering and industrial ambitions seldom equalled in this state.

Along in the middle 90's when most communities were still in "short pants" as far as permanent industries were concerned, four business-minded men of Blue Rapids and neighboring areas were organizing a company to mine gypsum, an undertaking which has proven to be an industrial mainstay of the Community.

The mill was first opened under the name of The Great Western Plaster Mill, a corporation under the guidance of Frank Paul and Jessie Axtell, Blue Rapids and Perry Dodge, Fort Dodge, Iowa and Dr. Bull of Oketo.

They operated the mill 7 years until it was sold to the American Plaster Mill which operated the mill for 17 years then sold it to Beaver Products Co. New York who in turn sold it to Certain-Teed Mills Corp. of Chicago in 1928. It was rather remarkable that the company of settlers that established Blue Rapids came from Genesee County, N. Y. in which Oakfield is located, and where gypsum and its uses were known, to a locality where there are large deposits of this material:

It is not impossible that the committee that located the town knew of the presence of gypsum in this vicinity.

In the summer of 1857, Thomas C. Palmer gathered together some greyish-whitish rocks to surround a camp fire that he had built on the east side of the Big Blue River about 3 miles northwest of Blue Rapids. After the fire burned, he noticed



that the rocks had turned to powder. He made some use of it in plastering a cabin.

In 1858 General Frank J. Marshall after whom the county is named, investigated the matter. He was a college graduate with considerable knowledge of mineralology and rightly classified the rock that "burned" as gypsum. He procured a quantity of it and "burned" it in log heaps and used the product to plaster a house he was building in Marysville, (between Caubles and Firestone). It was the earliest known utilization of gypsum for plaster in this vicinity.

During the history of Blue Rapids, several Plaster Mills were erected. The Electric Plaster Mill was located North of Blue Rapids, West of the present mill. It was torn down in 1914.



ELECTRIC PLASTER COMPANY'S MILL

The present mill was originally the Great Western Plaster Company and was sold to Beaver Products in 1920. Later it was sold to Certain-Teed Products Corporation which is the present owner. It was known as Certain-Teed No. 1. Certain-Teed No. 2 was located North of Dean's property on the old river road. At this site there was at one time a plaster and board mill.



AMERICAN CEMENT PLASTER CO.

On what is now Dolans farm, there was the Fowler Brothers Mine. The rock from this mine was brought down the river on barges from the mine to the old plaster mill at the dam.

The United States Gypsum Co, operated a mill on the Little Blue River, west of Blue Rapids and later moved to Morgans Ranch south of town.

Certain-Teed bought out all the other mills and tore them down.

The hills north of Blue Rapids are honey-combed with the



UNITED STATES GYPSUM CO.

gypsum mines. The best gypsum in the world is mined here. Plaster-of-paris and dental plaster is made in the mill and shipped to all parts of the world. The mill is the major source of employment in Blue Rapids.



The only remaining gypsum mine and mill in the Blue Rapids vicinity in operation is the one owned by Georgia Pacific. This mine was opened in 1896 by the Great Western Plaster Mill, under the guidance of four business men, Frank Paul and Jessie Axtell from Blue Rapids, Perry Dodge of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Dr. Bull of Oketo. They employed seven or eight men and turned out about 50 tons of rock per day. It was processed into several kinds of plaster, one, Sunflower modeling plaster is still being produced under the same name after 58 years. It was all mined and crushed by manual operation. Mules were used to power the railroad.

After about seven years the American Plaster Mills bought the plant and continued to operate it for nearly 17 years, when it was sold to the Beaver Products Co. of Buffalo, N. Y., who in turn sold it to Certain-Teed Products in 1928, who have their main offices and laboratories in Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

The mine is very dry and clean, and no pumps are needed to remove surplus moisture. The mine enters into a bluff through a tunnel or entrance to a level vein of 8 foot thick



gypsum. The rock mined is the purest in the world, and is used in "white goods". The mill, where it is processed, is at the base of the bluff. The rock is undercut and then drilled with a mobile hydraulic twin boom drill machine. It is then blasted with dynamite and electric caps. It is loaded with a mechanical loading machine into rubber tired shuttle cars, which carry the rock to an elevated conveyer where it is discharged and loaded into mine cars. It is then hauled to the entrance by means of a diesel locomotive.

A small percentage of the rock is shipped as commercial crushed rock, which is used in the making of cement. The balance is processed through the mill. There are two Raymond pulverizers which have a capacity of 8 tons per hour. It is then conveyed to one of the four kettles where it is calcined (reducing the moisture content) so that it is ready to be made into plaster. After being calcined, some is reground in buhr stone mills to achieve a finer grind. This material is then conveyed to the mixers where other ingredients are added to produce pottery plaster, molding plaster, dental plaster and statuary plaster. Plaster which is not reground is used for gauging plaster and plate glass stuccos. Approximately 20 name brands of plaster are manufactured and shipped all over the world from this plant.

## STEADY GROWTH FOR GEORGIA-PACIFIC

Georgia Pacific Corporation cannot see anything ahead but growth for the plant and mine north of Blue Rapids, J. S. Jorgensen, manager told Kiwanians Tuesday night at Grahams.

Associated with a company which is the world's largest integrated producer of plywood, Jorgensen said that since 1965 the company has shown a phenomenal growth.

Organized in 1927 as Georgia Hardwood Manufacturing Company, by 1946 the company owned five lumber mills in four states. The first plywood plant went into operation in 1947. Company officials launched into the gypsum industry in 1965 at which time a merger was consummated with Bestwall Company. The latter was the outgrowth of a gypsum company established in Blue Rapids community in 1872.

"By integrated diversification our company is making rapid progress. We not only distribute in this country but also to foreign countries," he said.

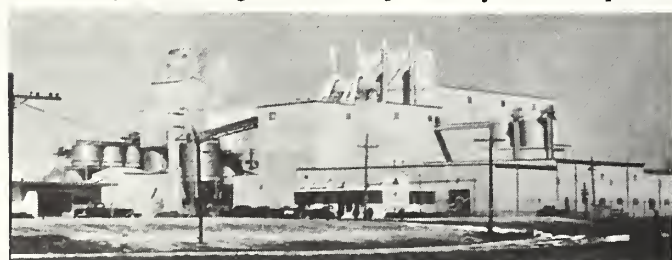
A warehouse was added to the local plant in 1965, two years later the Dinscal plant was added, and a 40,000 square foot additional warehouse space is being finished.

Jorgensen said that plans call for doubling the production of the board machine plant in 1971 in the local plant.

Payroll at the plant totaled slightly under \$1 million in 1969, and 110 persons are employed from Blue Rapids, Frankfort and Marysville. The company's outgoing freight bill for the railroads during the same period totaled \$1.2 million of which truckers earned \$200,000. Products shipped out included 2,848 cars of freight and 700 truck loads or 160 tons of finished products.

The gypsum vein, which averages 7 1/2 to 8 feet in thickness appears to be virtually unlimited in quantity, and is exceptionally fine for industrial uses, Jorgensen said.

The Blue Rapids plant is one of a total of 87 such plants in the nation, some being owned and operated by other companies.



## WATCH HER GROW

(From the May 30, 1907, Blue Rapids Times comes this clipping)

Blue Rapids is noted for her four large plaster mills with a pay roll of \$15,000 per month, capacity 30 cars per day, employing 250 men and the gratifying news that we are to have another mill certainly assure the continued growth of Blue Rapids. Blue Rapids has built a mill every two years and as soon as plans are completed, definite announcements will be made.

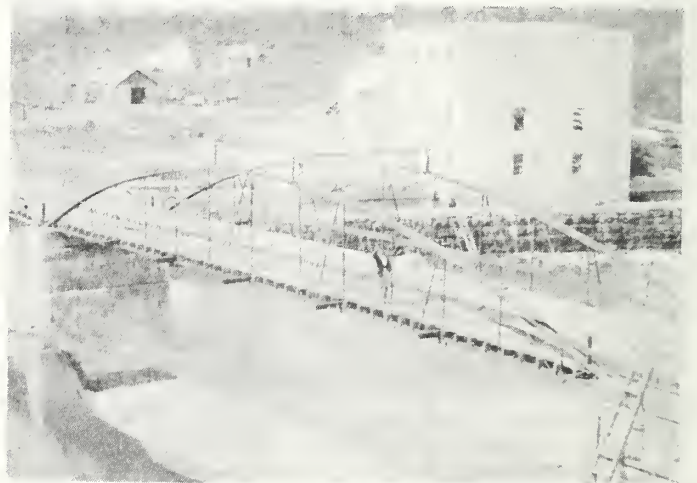
Electric Plaster Co's. mill was built in 1902, the equipment being furnished by Butterworth & Sowe of Grand Rapids, Michigan. All gypsum products are manufactured at this modern plant, which is the only mill owned by Blue Rapids Capital, and we certainly feel proud of the success they have attained.

## MANUFACTURING INTERESTS

Since Blue Rapids came into existence it has been noted throughout the state for its superior water-power privileges, and has been termed by some enthusiastic writers the "Lowell of Kansas." With its 1600 horsepower, its fine dam, its two-span bridge, and its numerous building sites for mills and factories, it will in a few years be justly entitled to that name.

Improvements were carried on an extensive scale. The water-power was surveyed by a competent engineer and found to possess manufacturing facilities of the river strikes an abrupt rock bluff on the right bank about 40 feet high; the river then turns to the left and ripples over a solid rock bottom for a distance of 899 feet. At the above mentioned bluff the town company constructed the dam running over the lime rock bed to the opposite shore. Built of cut stone, sunk into and keyed to the underlying solid rock, it affords great strength. A King's tubular arch wrought iron bridge was completed in the spring of 1871.

## LOTS OF WATER FLOWED UNDER THIS BRIDGE



The Blue Rapids water power was conceded to be the best in the State if not in the entire west when it was surveyed and estimates were made in 1870 by a competent civil engineer from the State of New York, who listed the dam and determined the amount of power which the falls would afford. It was found to possess manufacturing facilities exceeding fifteen hundred horse power. The same season the construction of a substantial stone dam, over two-hundred feet in length, was both commenced and completed.

The solid rockbed over which the water of the Blue rippled for several rods afforded advantages unsurpassed elsewhere by the Blue and unequalled by any other stream of the State, for permanent and inexpensive work.

A groove was cut in the bed rock to admit the lower course



of heavy stone, and the substantial character of the masonry had been put to the severest tests on several occasions without developing the slightest weakness in the duration character of the structure.

The height of the dam was ten feet, affording power enough to drive all the machinery required for the manufacturing purpose at that time. The value of such power was the heart of one of the richest and most productive agricultural districts of the west, Blue Rapids.

Superior rock quarries in the adjoining bluffs around the community produced excellent building stone at only half the cost in most countries. The manufacturing establishments in the early days were all built and constructed of massive lime rock and rest, like the dam, on the rock bed. They were little effected by high water.

The sea wall was completed in 1877 and manufacturing was invited. The Blue Rapids Town Company owned the power and at their expense the dam was constructed.

Their objective then, as even now, was to make Blue Rapids the greatest manufacturing center of the state.

The first man to take hold of and utilize the water power in Blue Rapids was C. E. Olmstead, LeRoy, New York, whose name is inseparably connected with the earlier history of Blue Rapids. He planned and carried into execution and finally to completion in 1871 one of the finest flouring mills in the west. Its dimensions were 54 x 83 feet. Its height 4 stories or about 70 feet on the river side. The base walls were 4 feet thick. Its capacity was seven sets of buhrs, only five of which were put in position when it first began.

In connection with the mill, "Farmers House" was provided for all customers who were compelled to remain overnight when here on business.

Controlling interest in the mill passed into the hands of J. S. Wright, brother-in-law of C. E. Olmstead and the business was conducted under the firm name of J. S. Wright and company in later years. A delivery wagon ran daily in all portions of town when milling supplies were needed.

## MARSHALL COUNTY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

A hydro-electric plant with turn turbines was installed and the power thus generated was used to operate the Electric Plaster Company and furnish electric light and power to the people of the town. In May, 1903, the power was destroyed by the flood and thereafter there was a constant and not very successful effort to control the river until 1912 when the Electric Plaster Co. was sold to Senator Henley who already owned the present No. 1 mill, so called, Officers of the No. 1 mill were creditors of the power company and accepted the power plant and lighting system for their indebtedness. J. G. Strong joined them and they incorporated as the Marshall County Power and Light Company. Some improvements were made on the property and then sold to United Power and Light Company of Abilene. The plant changed hands several times and became the property of Kansas Power and Light of Topeka, Kansas.

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Improvements were carried on an extensive scale. The water-power was surveyed by a competent engineer and found to possess manufacturing facilities of over 1,500 horsepower. At a point where the rapids commence, the current of the

river strikes an abrupt rock bluff on the right bank about 40 feet high; the river then turns to the left and ripples over a solid rock bottom for a distance of 800 feet. At the above mentioned bluff the town company constructed the dam running over the lime rock bed to the opposite shore. Built of cut stone, sunk into and keyed to the underlying solid rock, it affords great strength. A King's tubular arch wrought iron bridge was completed in the spring of 1871.



KANSAS POWER AND LIGHT BUILDING



Power was provided for our town from the power house near the dam.



The dam that was across the Blue River at Blue Rapids.



## THE BRICK FOUNDRY

A man from Atchison, Kansas, found clay suitable for making brick at the north end of Genesee Street. He brought necessary equipment from Atchison and brought negroes, the first in Blue Rapids, to work in the foundry. These bricks were used to build the original school building, Arlington Hotel and the original part of the old County Home on Genesee Street.

## SAW MILL

A saw mill was located on the opposite side of the river from the flour and woolen mill and turned out large quantities of native lumber daily.

In 1871, Samuel Craft operated a steam saw mill near the Blue River manufacturing hardwood and cottonwood lumber. The water system with the reservoir in the hill south of town was built in 1889. Sam Craft was the first water commissioner.

## BLUE RAPIDS HAD A CHEESE FACTORY

The institution, known as "The Cheese Factory" was in the hands of Messrs. Loban, Sweetland and Lovell in the first years of their business in the 1870's.

The Messrs. received and paid cash for all the milk delivered. The price paid for milk during the season in the spring months was 80 cents per hundred pounds. The factory had facilities for handling the milk of 600 cows.

The manufacturing was in the hands of Mr. John Brown who seemed to understand his business thoroughly, according to the Times issue June of 1877.

With a sufficient number of cows to supply the factory with all the milk it could manage the business was said to be remunerative. Cows cost \$20 to \$28 a head from the first of March to the first of June. "The feed costs nothing" said the write up, "above the expense of the hearding." The herds that they had at that time in the vicinity of Blue Rapids contained from 40 to 100 head of cattle each.

## BLUE RAPIDS FOUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOP

A shop opposite the Plaster Mill in Blue Rapids in the 70's was called the Blue Rapids Foundry and Machine Shop. Owners were the Price Brothers.

The business was able to furnish orders for engines, boilers, saw and grist and pulleys, brass goods, steam and water fittings, saws, belting, babbitt metal, lift and force pumps, builders castings, such as iron columns, lintels, sills and caps, sash weights, cellar grates, iron shutters, fencing and railing, bridge bolts and castings, kettles, all kinds of heavy and light castings of brass or iron.

They did repairs of all kinds and were prepared to do all kinds of iron turning and planting and gas fittings.

## WOOLEN MILL

A large four story magnesium limestone building and everything about it looks as though it were put there to stay, was operated by water. It stood close to the flour mill. Force of 35 hands in the mill-running night and day. Their goods were favorites in St. Joseph and other markets west. Presently turning out cassimeres and flannels for the mammoth wholesale house of Semon and Co. in St. Joe. The woollen mill ran 528 spindles, 6 looms and was manufacturing 150 yards of cloth and 150 pounds of stocking yarn each day.

This firm was not unduly successful as there were few sheep to furnish the raw material and the people did not have much money to purchase the products of the woollen mills.

In 1877 the plant was sold to Buell Manufacturing Co, of

St. Joseph. Howard Buell, one of the sons of the company, came to Blue Rapids to manage the local mill. He was aggressive and constantly increased the business. It was processing about 300,000 pounds of wool a year. This mill burned down in 1879 and was immediately rebuilt. When Howard Buell died in 1886, the prosperous days of the mills were over. Shortly thereafter the machinery was removed to St. Joseph to increase the capacity of that mill. For a while woolen material was dyed at Blue Rapids but soon that activity was terminated.

The building stood silent and unoccupied for a number of years. Part of the building was undermined and fell into the river and later floods wrecked the remainder of the building.

## PAPER MILL

Located on the west side of the river, it was completed in 1873.

Business was not too successful and constantly changed hands. The financial crash of 1873 caused the paper mill to close.

In 1874, Green Brothers along the north bank of the river and under contract with town company erected a stone building and installed a paper mill.

Before entering upon this project they had the available water analyzed by a chemist who pronounced it suitable for paper making. After the plant was put in operation it developed that the chemists were mistaken. They could make plenty of course paper but could not bleach it white enough for anything but use than that of wrapping paper and paper sacks.

In 1876 the Green Brothers assigned their interests to the firm of Rix, Hole and Company who did nothing with the plant for several years.

About 1882 the building and power were leased by Parks and Eckels, millers from Wisconsin, who installed 2 pairs of millstones and manufactured corn meal, rye flour and feed, but did not mill wheat. They operated under the name of "Blue Valley Customs Mills" and did considerable business for several years. A roller flour miller of a nominal capacity of 100 barrels in 24 hours was installed in the building and was operated much of the time on a night and day basis. In 1889 the plant was totally destroyed by fire.



## HISTORY OF L. S. AND L.

The grocery business conducted by Messrs. Loban & Sweetland in the beginning days of Blue Rapids was enlarged in 1875 and embraced the boot and shoe trade. It was further amplified in 1876 by taking into partnership T. H. Lovell with a large stock of dry goods which became a permanent and co-extensive branch of their trade.

Mr. Loban was one of the pioneer merchants of the place





and the trade worked up and held by the firm may be said to have commenced the first season of the settlement of Blue Rapids in 1870. The store carried a very large stock and drew trade from extensive scope of the country. They had the confidence of the entire community and their prices were simply the result of competition, (skinned) as the article printed.

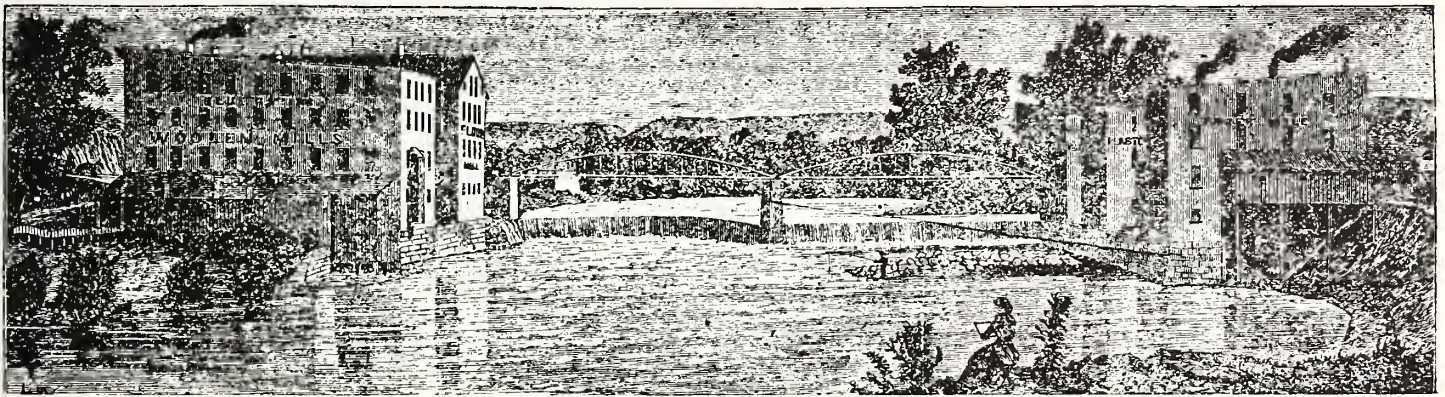
They took on the management of the cheese manufacturing business, 1877 which considerably enlarged their business.

#### M. T. CUMMINGS CORN MILLS BURNS

M. T. Cummings Corn Mills burned at about 2:20 o'clock, Tuesday afternoon on April 25, 1907. Workmen across the river could see the smoke coming out of the top. The fire started on the third floor, presumably from the smoke stack. The loss included 4,000 or 5,000 bushels of corn, about three cars of mill products and thousands of dollars worth of sacks.

Mr. Cummings had converted the mill into a corn mill in 1902 and was doing good when the flood came and caused the mill to be idle for 2 1/2 years and started again in 1905.

# Blue Rapids Roller Mills



## GRANULATED FLOUR.

This Roller Granulated Flour is warranted equal to the best flour in the world—manufactured from the best of winter wheat. It is of superior strength, requires more moisture, is much more nutritious and healthy, and makes a large loaf that will keep sweet and moist for several days.

**CAUTION:---**Care must be taken in cold weather to have the flour thoroughly warmed before mixing; also, to keep the sponge in a warm place until ready for baking. By carefully observing these simple precautions you will get good bread every time; while, if neglected, your bread will be poor and dark, no matter how good the flour.

## *Upham, Son & Co.,*

BLUE RAPIDS, KAN.

TIMES PRINT, BLUE RAPIDS, KAN.





48 hours to freeze the water in the vats. This same operation was re-enacted for 47 years.

Besides the production of ice, the building housed a cold storage department which was equipped with refrigeration pipes.

Farmers were invited to come in and buy ice at 60¢ a hundred; delivered in town it was 75¢. R. G. Arnold took orders in those days and advertised "to afford you comfort during the hot weather, buy ice."

Many homes had ice cards to display when they needed replenished with the luxurious item. Youngsters ran behind the delivery truck to grab the small pieces that chipped off when the delivery man picked the huge chunks to ice box size. It wasn't unusual either to see youngsters standing near the cooling tower by the plant to catch the cold spray that cascaded down the sides and spilled out over the surrounding area.

G. Van Valkenburgh held office of President for 8 or 9 years. The business was purchased by The Lindsey Meiers in 1954. He kept it in operation until 1963, when five countains, Ed Wiegers, Charles Moeller, Ralph Tidwell, Marysville; Dick Heeney, Beattie and Bob Sigler, Blue Rapids, forming the "Blue Valley Ice Company Incorporated" took it over and kept the plant in operation until 1966. It was razed in 1967 after almost fifty years of operation.



## ICE PLANT

"Good Quality of Sanitary Ice. . . Plant operating night and day. . ."

The plant began operation July 8, 1919. The organized company composed of several prominent citizens of Blue Rapids. A. R. Dean who also managed the flour mill located just to the east, was the president. F. A. Train was the secretary and some of the other board members list first included L. B. Tebbuts, G. Van Valkenburgh and S. R. Edwards. The new business, cooperated under the laws of the State of Kansas, operated day and night and supplied folks and various businesses for miles around with the best ice available in this part of the state.

The low speed ammonia compressor machine started operating on Tuesday, July 15. Wednesday the 16th, the ice vats were placed in the brine filled with water and the machinery started. There were 160 vats that held 300 pounds of ice each. It took



Ice was cut from the river and stored in buildings for use during the summer months.



Ice was delivered during the summer months to residences and places of business. This ice was taken from the river during the winter months.



## LIVERY STABLES POPULAR PLACES



In the early history of Blue Rapids one of the most popular places of business was the livery stables. This was a very necessary business as it kept in shape both animal and wheeled vehicles the mode of transportation many years ago. This is the south side Livery known as Backman and Land Livery. In the picture are Charles Moore, Goldie Davis, Dave Backman and Robert Land. The others are unidentified. The building was located where Osborne Wheel Shop now stands.



The south side Livery stable owned by Laforce and Miller was called the Commercial Livery. In the picture is J. P. Miller and Charles Moore. This building was located where Harold Osborne's Wheel Shop is now located.



## GREENHOUSE

The Blue Rapids Greenhouse was established by Mr. and Mrs. S. E. (Ed) Craft in 1914. Mrs. Ed Craft, whose hobby was growing beautiful flowers, was the person who planted the seed that grew into the greenhouse business in Blue Rapids. It is the only original Greenhouse still operating in Marshall County. In 1940, Ora Persell purchased the greenhouse and is still in his family today, being operated by a son, Arlie.

In 1956, the capacity of the greenhouse was doubled and Arlie Persell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Persell went into business with his father.

They are wholesale dealers in year round sales of chrysanthemums and are the largest dealers in northeast Kansas and southwest Nebraska. They have 25,000 square feet of greenhouse and also a large garden area. They are members of the F. T. D.

In April of 1968, they opened a flower shop at Marysville at 705 Broadway, where they have a large selection of flowers and plants to choose from.

Floor space for the greenhouses covers approximately 34,000 square feet, with about 23,000 square feet exclusively for chrysanthemums.



## MAY 17, 1923

The new poultry and egg plant will be put to use for the first time Saturday, according to Wilson Hanna who has charge of the plant here.

The force that has been grading eggs at the Fair Grounds for the past month or so will move to the loading docks at the new plant. The truckers have two regular routes out of here that they make regularly and more routes will be established. About 350 cases of eggs are handled here in a day, now or about 136,000 eggs.

The plant closed in 1949.



## SAND AND GRAVEL INDUSTRY

Gravel from the Blue River valley is the best quality gravel

to be found in the state. It passes all the wear and chemical tests that the Kansas State Highway Commission has in its specifications. Gravel for all the major highways in Northeast Kansas and many across the state have been shipped by rail and truck from sand pits on the Blue River.

With the coming of Tuttle Creek Dam and the forced relocation due to easement and out right purchase, deposits of excellent quality have been found away from the river. The industry continues to be important enough that the State Highway Department maintains a Materials Testing Laboratory and Office in Blue Rapids. Gravel from the various pits around Blue Rapids are graded and tested to meet road use specifications. Total mixed aggregate for concrete is made at a local plant and is used for Redi-Mix Concrete that is hauled by truck to various building sites. The sand and gravel industry continues to furnish a sizeable income in the economy of the community.



THE "OLD" WAY AND THE "NEW"

Semi precious stones such as agates of all kinds, opals, white sapphire, topaz, turquoise, quartz crystals and jasper are found in the sandbars of the Blue and in glacial drifts of the county. These, plus the fossils in our limestone, make fun for the "rock hounds."

## BLUE RAPIDS INDUSTRIES

The Blue Rapids Industries was started in May, 1959. They make fiberglass radome covers. The radome is a cover for radar. These covers are sent to all parts of the world except Russia. There are only two fiberglass manufacturers in Northeast Kansas.

At one time they manufactured fiberglass boats.





Residence of C. J. Brown



Residence of E. R. Morgan



Residence on Bluevue Farm; John Frost, Prop.



Residence of Dr. R. S. Fillmore



Farm Home of G. B. Layton



Residence of Chas. C. Tibbetts



## SCHOOLS

The term "school" has had a definite meaning for residents of the Blue Rapids area for approximately one hundred eleven years. It was in 1859 that Lucy A. Palmer taught a small school one-half mile west of town in a private dwelling. In November, 1861, her "select" school had twenty-five pupils. In 1870, with the arrival of settlers and the building of Colonial Hall, school was held in that meeting place with the Reverend Charles Holmes as teacher. School district number three was organized in 1871 and continued to use Colonial Hall two more years.



In 1873 a two-story brick building, thirty by fifty feet, was erected on the corner lot at Sixth and Chestnut. C. M. Brydges, the first teacher in the new school, was credited as the one who really started the school. Increased enrollment necessitated the construction of a frame building near the brick building. Two early day teachers in the school were Mrs. L. S. D. Smith, mother of Mr. C. D. Smith, city, and Miss Jessie Burr, sister of the late Mr. W. J. Burr. Mrs. Smith taught from 1874 to 1879 and Miss Burr taught kindergarten. Mrs. Smith also taught in the grades from 1892 to 1900.



The original school grounds area consisted of two full blocks bounded by Fifth and Seventh Streets and Chestnut and East Avenue. There were visions of a college campus in the minds of the early pioneers.

The grade school building of brick facing, which was recently razed, was started in 1892 and was occupied in the fall of 1893. At that time there were two grades in each room on the first

floor and the high school occupied the second floor. About 1910 an addition to the north provided three more rooms. The older building was then referred to as the "Ag Building" and several high school classes were held there. Its last years of usefulness were for the Manual Arts classes. In 1954 the building was torn down and in its place was erected the auditorium - Gymnasium at a cost of approximately \$122,000. This included kitchen facilities used for the hot lunch program.



The building was dedicated April 26, 1955. In 1917 the high school building, of red brick, was constructed. This provided badly needed rooms for the older pupils and eased the crowded conditions in the lower grades.



The history of kindergarten, (early references called it "primary"), had its beginning in the early 1870's when Miss Jessie Burr taught in the little frame building. Miss Irene Preston assisted by Mrs. Dena Wanamaker, nee Liscom, taught the primary class of ninety children in the 1912-1913 term. The primary, or kindergarten, was still a part of the school system in the 1916-1917 term. Of this, one reference stated that "At the present time Blue Rapids is the only school in Marshall County that maintains a department for beginners below the first grade." In more recent years a local club organization sponsored a kindergarten. In 1966 the kindergarten became part of the regular school system.

Blue Rapids was the first school in Marshall County to establish a standard four year course for its high school. The first graduating class was in 1884 with three members. The class of 1885 was the smallest with two members. In 1888, 1889, 1892 and 1905, there were no graduates. The largest class to graduate was in 1936 with forty members.

As the years move on, changes have been made in school organizations. The little one-room rural schools are memories of the past. The first to consolidate was Fawn Creek, west of town. Other rural schools in the area which closed their



doors were Game Fork, Prairie Ridge, Patterson, Elm Creek, Gallup, Fairview, and the last, Pleasant Valley.

The Irving High School joined Blue Rapids in the fall of 1957. The Irving grade school moved to Blue Rapids in the fall of 1960 with the coming of Tuttle Creek Reservoir. With the unification of Waterville-Blue Rapids schools, the Blue Rapids High School came to a close with the class of 1966, the last graduates. The total number of graduates is about 1390 for Blue Rapids, from 1884 to 1966.

Many teachers served the school system long and faithfully. Those putting in the most years include the late Mrs. S. E. S. Vawter who taught continuously in first grade for 28 years, from 1913 to 1941 when she retired. Mr. E. B. Weller came to the school system as principal and eighth grade instructor in 1919 and taught that term. In 1923 he finished a term for a teacher who resigned. He continued teaching until the spring of 1953. During the 1932-1933 term he coached high school athletics and again in 1944-1945, along with his duties as principal and eighth grade teacher. His school service totaled thirty-two years. In the fall of 1947, Mr. Edwin Brychta joined the high school faculty and has served as instructor in several areas some of which are Manual Arts, Driver Education and Sciences. His years of service to date in this department total 23 years, 19 of which were for Blue Rapids High School.

Even though the era of the "Pirate" and B.R.H.S. has passed the recalling of school days--happy days--occurs each year as the alumni members and guests meet again to renew acquaintances and join in singing;

"Our hearts are light along the Blue  
The stars at night are peeping through  
And gently swaying with the swell,  
We sing the song we love so well.  
Of days we've spent, of rules we've bent,  
Of lessons learned, of dreams untold,  
Of penance done, of victories won,  
To you we sing, old Blue and the Gold,"

R. B. Ambrose--1916

Certainly Blue Rapids and community can be very proud of the many graduates, too many to enumerate, who have gone on to reach their goals in their chosen fields. These graduates have taken their places as the best among lawyers, civil engineers, business administrators, farmers, bankers, scientists, doctors, nurses, teachers, merchants, homemakers, military, and any number of other professions--their privilege to choose in a nation where freedom of choice was guaranteed by our forefathers scores of years ago.

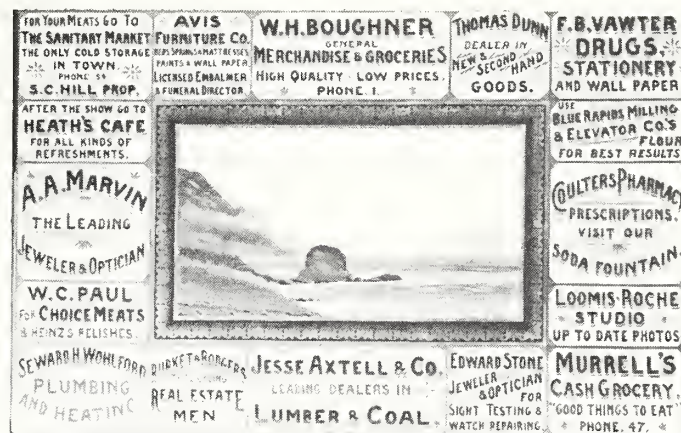
With the unification of the Waterville, Blue Rapids school districts in June 1966, the Pirate, the Blue and Gold, and B. R. H. S. came to an end. In came the Mustang, Purple and White, and Valley Heights.

We look to our youth to continue to hold to the high ideals exemplified by past graduates as they take their places in our communities, our nation, and even remote places throughout the world. It is our hope that the Purple and White, the Mustangs, and Valley Heights mean as much to the present generation as the Blue and Gold, the Pirates and Blue Rapids High School has meant to those who have passed through these halls of education in the past.

## RECREATION

Opera House, 1895 built by local citizens. Headed by John McPherson (December 16, 1846). Due to financial difficulties, it was later taken over by the city.

On January 17, 1907, Uncle Tom's Cabin, a stage show, at the Opera House presenting in all its soul stirring entirety and unequalled production of the grandest historical play ever written.



Advertising was done in an odd and novel way back in early Blue Rapids when the Opera House first came into being. This picture is evident of who advertised and what they sold. The advertising was hand painted on canvas type material and was rolled up and out of the way when programs or movies were held on stage. If you tired of reading the ads you could just sit and look at the scenic view in the middle of the advertisement display. According to information received from some of the citizens of Blue Rapids, men traveled around the country doing this type work for movie house and opera companies. It is thought that in the back part of the theatre, can still be found one of these canvas advertisements.

George Hewitt, son of Julia Hewitt, was manager of a Roller Skating entertainment. It was opened Saturday evening, January 26, 1907. Mr. Hewitt also was responsible for stage props when shows were to be shown.



## FIFTH ANNUAL FISH FRY

December 14, 1905

At 9:20 o'clock Thursday evening the annual Fish Fry Association held their banquet at the Opera House Parlors.

A pretty site greeted the eyes of the guests as they entered the room with tables decorated very pretty and set with dozens of oranges, bananas and apples arranged at frequent intervals.

President E. D. White, who acted as toastmaster called the guests together and asked them to seat themselves at the tables.

Every one of those 196 chairs were occupied and supper was served to 30 more at the second table.

Two hundred and fifty pounds of fish having been nicely prepared, supplied an abundance of fish for everyone.

Nearly three hours were spent at the tables, not all the



time eating. As after the inner man had been filled there was an Oratorical and Musical feast provided.

Toastmaster White briefly explained the object of the banquet and said some good words for the best town in Northeastern Kansas.

He then called upon Messrs C. Coulter, C. J. Brown and J. G. Strong to say a few good words on behalf of the business men of the town.

Judge Kimble was the next speaker and made the principal address of the evening. He told his early experience in connection with Blue Rapids how with other he built (on paper) the first north and south railroad and came down over the hills with the railroad (in his wagon) and landed in front of the LaBelle House where the glories of this valley and possibilities of his railroad were extolled to all who would listen.

The following gentlemen were then called upon for talks. Many of their responses being very witty and entertaining: Judge Loch, Marysville; Dr. E. Armstrong, Greenleaf; County Clerk, Kern, Marysville; J. C. Sample, Frankfort; G. B. Heleker, Frankfort; County Treasurer, Brubaker, Marysville; Ex-Sheriff, Guthrie, Irving; County Commissioner, Parker, Waterville; Dr. H. Humpreville, Waterville; W. P. Brown, Blue Rapids; J. N. Wanamaker, Blue Rapids; Professor A. J. Clark, Blue Rapids; Sheriff, Fred Barrett, Marysville and J. L. Barnes, Blue Rapids.



## NOTES OF INTEREST

First born - Dr. R. A. Wells delivered a child to Van Dusens member of the town Colony in 1870.

First marriage - Lottie Holt to Rev. J. Williams, 1870.

First death - wife of H. S. Halbert, 1870.

First teacher - Lucy A. Palmer, 1861.

First Millinery - December 1871, Milles Knowlton and Steward.

Population - 1871, 480 people and 27 business firms.

1867 - Missouri Pacific Central Branch railroad went as far west as Waterville, Blue Rapids being the principle station along the line.

## PLACES OF BUSINESS

LaBelle House built in 1870 by the Town Company offered to donate five lots facing on the Square to anyone who would erect a building of certain specifications. The proposition

was accepted by Captain McPherson on behalf of a partnership composed of his father-in-law, Clarendon Y. Reed, H. S. Halbert who was a nephew of Mrs. Reed and himself, James and William Allerdice, hired by McPherson. came to construct the hotel. The hotel was named the "LaBelle House" after a lake in Wisconsin, and was opened and dedicated with a grand ball on Christmas Night, 1870. It was long known as one of the best hostleries on the central branch. This hotel was called the Maple House when it changed hands. Later the Albion and still later the MacLeod. This building was torn down in 1969.

**Anniversary Party.**

AT  
**The "La Belle House", Blue Rapids, Kansas.**  
**February 22nd, 1872.**

*Yourself and Lady are Respectfully Invited.*

### HONORARY MANAGERS:

H. B. OLSTED, Blue Rapids.	CHAS. F. KOESTER, Marysville.
A. W. STEVENS,	W. SMITH,
N. W. FORDHAM, Frankfort.	DR. E. D. KEET,
RACK LOVE,	C. H. PHILLIPS, Waterville.
A. E. BROWN, Irving.	A. SIMS, Jr.,
W. W. JOHNSON,	A. P. SMITH,
Floor Manager	E. H. COMSTOCK.

Tickets, 2.50

McPHERSON & REED, Props



## POST OFFICE

A post office was established in this vicinity as early as 1858 with William Thompson the first post master. He resigned in favor of his son-in-law A. J. Palmer in 1862, the latter a settler southwest of Blue Rapids on a portion of what is now the Stocks ranch. During the Civil War, Palmer's buildings were burned by a mob. The motive for this lawless act has never been definitely ascertained. He was succeeded as post master by his sister-in-law, Miss Emma Thompson and she in turn by S. Craft who later turned the office over to John Weber. After the building of the Central Branch railway, it was discontinued but for only a brief time, as it re-opened after the settlement of Blue Rapids by the Eastern colony.

In 1870, H. S. Parmalee, an early settler was post master. In 1872, the first mail was sent by W. H. Goodwin.



In 1875, Parmalee was succeeded by C. E. Tibbets, then editor of Blue Rapids Times.

In December, 1876, A. J. Loomis was post master. He remained in position until 1883.

Since 1883, the following have served: Judge William Thompson, Thomas Marcy, C. Coulter, John McPherson, H. C. Lathrop, Clarence Coulter, H. C. Lathrop, Dixie (Elliott) Hickman, Robert Gallup and Kenneth Fincham.



PRESENT DAY POST OFFICE IN BLUE RAPIDS



OLD POST OFFICE-NOW THE OFFICE OF THE BLUE RIVER SAND AND GRAVEL CO.



This picture shows how they carried the mail back when. I believe, though, even with his sturdy horse and faithful dog, rain, sleet and snow may have been hard to fight in this Rural Free Delivery Conveyance. The name on the back of the picture is Roy Arnold.

In 1949, Frank A. Estes, the oldest rural mail carrier in the state, at that time, retired after 43 years of service. Mr. Estes was the third rural carrier in Marshall County, and began his duties on rural route number three from the Blue Rapids post office, November 16, 1905. His starting salary was one dollar a day for his horses and himself to deliver the mail to rural patrons over roads that were impassible many days of the year.

## NEWSPAPER HISTORY

The newspaper history of Blue Rapids has been one of many changes. The Blue Rapids Times was first published in May, 1871, by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Tibbets. In 1877, a half interest was sold to E. M. Brice who purchased the other half interest the following year. In 1880, Edward Skinner, Jr. was a partner for a short time, then in 1894, L. B. Tibbetts bought a half interest and remained identified with the paper for 22 years. M. Brice, in 1904 sold his part to C. C. Tibbetts. L. B. Tibbetts retired in 1916 and sold his share to his son Harlow, after his return from service in the First World War. Harlow bought out his uncle when Charles moved to Longview, Washington in 1923 and continued the publication of the paper until 1925 when he sold it to G. P. Burris but purchased it back in less than a year. The paper was transferred to W. C. Coates who was editor and publisher until 1940 when he sold it to George Dean Jr. from whom Mr. Herbert Hickman bought it in 1942. This was the way the building looked then and he remodeled and redecorated it the same year.



Under Mr. Hickman's management the paper enjoyed a large circulation and great prosperity. He was publisher of the paper for 16 years. He then sold the Times and its printing plant to Ben A. Hart in January of 1958. In assuming the management of the Times and the printing business in Blue Rapids, he took over one of the oldest institutions of the city.

On May 1, 1964, Mr. and Mrs. Max Clawson of Frankfort became the owners and publishers of the Blue Rapids Times and are still with the paper at this time.

From time to time other papers have tried their luck but with no avail. In 1880, M. T. F. Hall commenced the publication of the Blue Rapids Lantern but the Lantern soon went out. The Blue Rapids Lyre lasted only a few months in the winter of 1886 and 1887. Russell Brothers in 1890 began publication of the Blue Rapids Botor. Two years later it was sold to Hubbard and Munger who in turn sold it to Mr. George



Thompson and the latter disposed of it to A. J. Ulsh. In 1899 it became the property of L. B. Tibbetts who edited it independently for two years then consolidated it with the Times. Two new papers were established in 1908. The Blue Rapids Leader lasted only a few months. The Blue Rapids Journal was edited by Graham Brothers for two years. They leased the property to Reverend J. P. Hanson, pastor of the Baptist Church. Tibbetts Brothers next took over the lease, purchased the subscription list and good will had merged the Journal with the Times.

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

In the 1880's a number of private telephones were installed in Blue Rapids. At that time the Burgner Bowman Matthews lumber yard was operated by Jesse Axtell and Co., and C. A. Axtell, a son of Jesse Axtell was in charge as manager. Several of these telephone lines converged on the office of the lumber yard where they were connected with a homemade switch board constructed and operated by Mr. Axtell.

About 1898, a company built a long distance line through the town. The system was installed in Brown Brothers hardware store.

Late in 1900 the city government granted a franchise to Dr. Elwood Armstrong of Greenleaf, Kansas, to construct, maintain and operate a telephone system in Blue Rapids. As soon as 100 subscribers were obtained in 1901 a crew of workmen came to build the system. The central office was located on the second story of the building at the southwest corner of the public square, the building recently torn down.

The telephone force consisted of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Lee. Mr. Lee did the line and repair work and Mrs. Lee operated the switchboard. This system grew rapidly as lines extended into the country in all directions and new directories had to be issued every few months to keep the patron list up to date.

In 1905, the Blue Rapids Telephone Company was incorporated. It was composed largely of Czech farmers from south of town. Rev. Joseph Miksovsky, a Presbyterian minister, was president. They owned the company plant for a year or so and then sold it to the Honorable J. G. Strong. He later sold an interest in it to his business associate, H. F. Kaump and they continued to operate it for many years. In the meantime the office was moved to the second floor of the Citizens Bank building, (now the office for Mr. Bargdill's business). In 1925 the office was moved to the Burkett building (now the American Legion Hall) on the east side of the square.

After Mr. Strong was elected to Congress, he and Mr. Kaump sold the telephone business to the United Telephone Company of Abilene, Kansas. Later this company sold to the consolidated Telephone Company and then it was sold to the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

The dial system was installed in 1940, Blue Rapids being the only town in this area enjoying this convenience. The company built the small building at the south east corner of the square which housed the dial equipment. The latest directory (1970) lists approximately 560 names of patrons.

## FAIRMONT CEMETERY

On the 26th day of June 1879, the Blue Rapids Cemetery Association was organized with the following officers. President Festus Cooley, Vice President W. A. Barrett, Secretary M. C. Holman, Treasurer-Director C. A. Freeland. The capital stock was secured by the sale of one thousand shares at ten dollars each.

Block No. 4 of ten acres, in the northeast part of the city, was purchased and the name of Blue Rapids cemetery was changed in 1907 to Fairmont cemetery by Captain McPherson.

A charter was obtained from the state on August 13, 1879. Thus was secured to the city of Blue Rapids a most beautiful spot for use as a cemetery. Sloping gradually in every direction, it commands a charming view of the Blue River for several miles. The whole plot is surrounded with a hedge, which is kept trimmed.

Board of directors consisted of A. E. Sweetland, Dr. R. S. Fillmore, John McPherson, Livy Tibbetts and A. A. Marvin.

The officers of the association, chosen from the board of directors are A. E. Sweetland, president, and manager; John McPherson, vice president, Dr. R. S. Fillmore, treasurer; Livy B. Tibbetts, secretary and George Flower, superintendent.

## PROSPECT HILL CEMETERY

The Prospect Hill Cemetery is located two miles northwest of Blue Rapids. R. S. Craft was elected President of the first board of directors of this cemetery. This cemetery covers 40 acres of ground. Only 10 acres of this are plotted. This cemetery was incorporated on June 17, 1879 with the following charter members and board of directors: R. S. Craft, T. F. Hall, Ed W. Waynant, John Brown and William Coulter.

## FIRE PROTECTION

Lower part of the flouring mills contain 2 powerful Holly pumps and one-half mile of pipe laid throughout town, (first improvement of that kind in Kansas). A hose is kept in readiness at the flour mill and in two minutes time a stream of water can be thrown to the height of two hundred feet.

Organization of the fire department in 1889 started with the erection of a frame fire house on the site of the present Phillips 66 service station. This also served as headquarters for the city government until 1899.

The first fire chief was M. N. Cox but he was soon succeeded by Charles A. Watkins, who held the office until his death in 1929. He was followed by his step son, George W. Murrell, who remained in charge until he passed away in 1943.

The only equipment the fire department had at its inception was a hose cart. In about 1919 the first fire truck was purchased. After it had outlived its usefulness, a new and modern truck was bought.

In 1965, under a plan provided by the government, a large 4 wheel drive fire truck was given to Blue Rapids Township and Blue Rapids City Township. Another old city fire truck was loaned to these townships. Now these two townships have formed a "Fire District." Under the present fire protection plan the town and rural area is well protected.

## STREETS

In the beginning, streets were very poorly maintained. Street commissioners worked by the day when he was told to



Note the board sidewalks in the picture.



because of a scarcity of city funds. They would occasionally open up ditches along a portion of a street. Weeds became a problem. Unless there was to be some sort of public gathering, such as a Fourth of July Celebration, the weeds were allowed to grow unmolested. At one time the sunflowers on either side of main street between the public square and the Missouri Pacific depot were so high that the top of a buggy was barely visible above them. In 1918, sanding of the streets commenced and was continued from time to time until practically all the highways were hard surfaced. In 1930-31, many streets were curbed and guttered and a water sewer installed. In 1935, 36 and 37, a system of sewers was built with the aid of W. P. A. funds costing in excess of \$100,000. In 1941, the public square was treated with oil and this work continued until Main Street and Fifth Street had been improved in the same manner.

At present, we have twenty-nine miles of city streets. Twenty blocks are black topped, six miles are graveled and three miles are dirt.

## SIDEWALKS

The first sidewalks were thin rocks that settled unevenly, others were of hard pine lumber that speedily disintegrated and were often dangerous. A few of the business houses installed dressed stone walks that were excellent. In 1903, the construction of cement walks was begun and movement continued for several years, giving the city an effective system of walks.



Chestnut Street (facing South) old high school building is on the right hand side of picture.



AROUND THE "SQUARE"



Men shoveling gravel onto the square.  
All citizens volunteered



Main Street (looking north) view from flour mill



West side of square when they had just finished graveing.

## ELECTRIC LIGHTS

A franchise was granted the Electric Power Company in 1902 to wire the town and furnish lights to its patrons, in September. In the spring of 1903, the water power was lost for the time being because of the flood disaster. From that time on until 1912, the power was not dependable and service somewhat irregular.

In 1913, the Marshall County Power and Light Company was organized by J. G. Strong and several stockholders, and took over the system. Shortly after that a controlling interest was bought by E. A. Wharton and B. F. Byer of Man-



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1970

TO THE CITIZENS OF BLUE RAPIDS, KANSAS

It is a pleasure for me to send warmest greetings and best wishes to you for a most memorable and happy observance of your community's one hundredth anniversary.

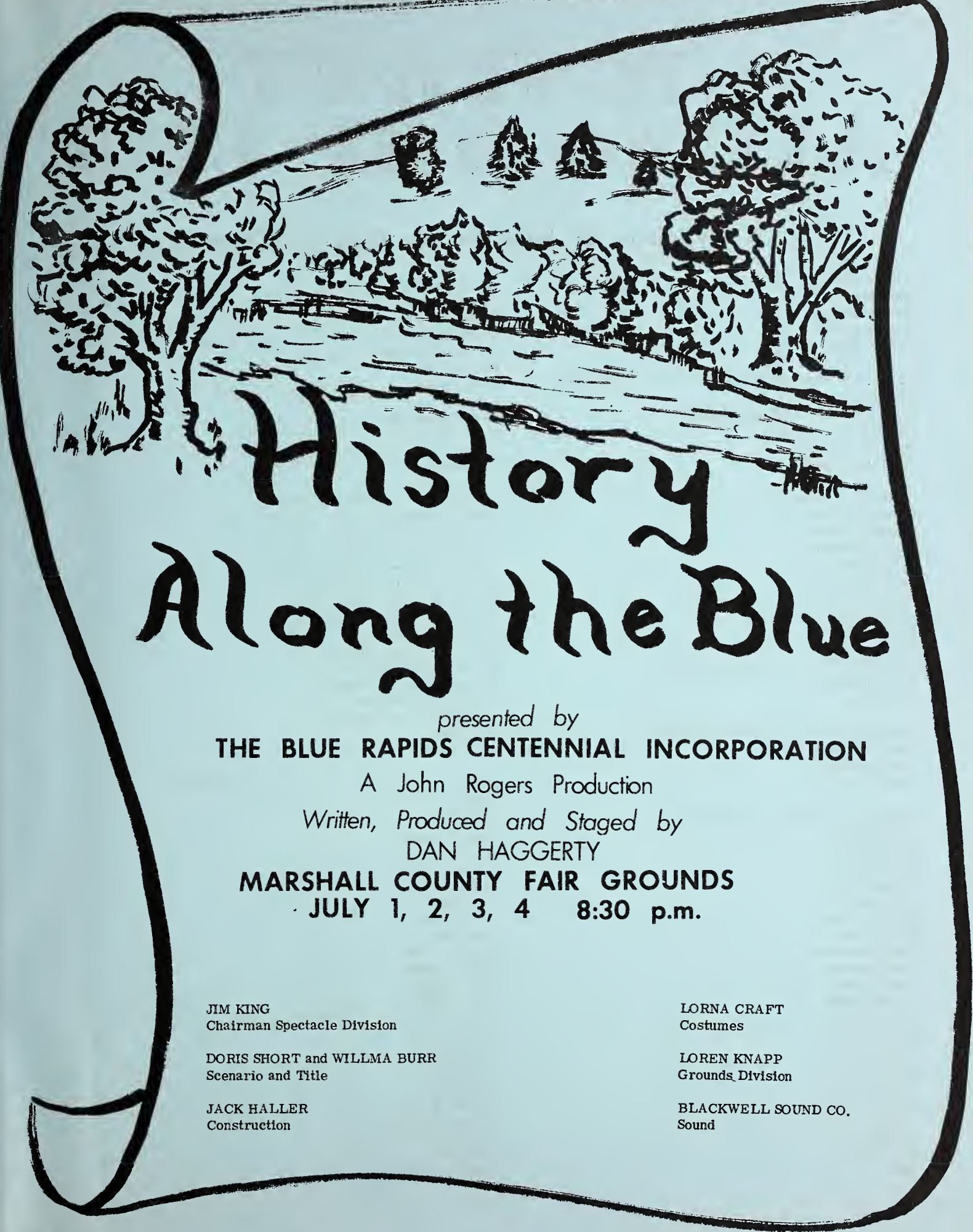
In the years ahead, I know that Blue Rapids will record the same kind of determination that has characterized its past history.

The role of local government is greater than ever. And never before have the contributions of your community been so vital to the progress and welfare of your country.

Encouraged by justifiable pride in our past achievements, may you extend your success into the 70s and may you help make this the decade of exceptional local participation in national life.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Richard Nixon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.





# History Along the Blue

*presented by*

**THE BLUE RAPIDS CENTENNIAL INCORPORATION**

A John Rogers Production

*Written, Produced and Staged by*  
**DAN HAGGERTY**

**MARSHALL COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS**

**JULY 1, 2, 3, 4 8:30 p.m.**

**JIM KING**  
Chairman Spectacle Division

**DORIS SHORT and WILLMA BURR**  
Scenario and Title

**JACK HALLER**  
Construction

**LORNA CRAFT**  
Costumes

**LOREN KNAPP**  
Grounds Division

**BLACKWELL SOUND CO.**  
Sound



# MISSTORY ALONG THE BLUE

## A Synopsis of Episodes & Cast of Characters

### NARRATORS:

Dale Stryker  
Maxine Kotapish  
John Spunaugle  
Jacque Haller

### EPISODE I: "PROLOGUE - A QUEEN IS CROWNED"

#### ESCORTS:

Governor Robert Docking - July 1  
William Perry - July 2  
Iva Weeks - July 3  
Jim King - July 4

### EPISODE II: "I AM BLUE RAPIDS"

#### PROLOGUE MEN

Charles Wagoner  
Harold Osborne  
John Stryker  
Lauren Smerchek  
Basil McKee  
Lowell Specht  
Paul Miller  
Ora Persell  
KID NEXT DOOR AND MAN IN TUB  
Randy Feldhausen  
Fred Borck

### EPISODE III: "THE BOOK OF DESTINY"

Mrs. Vera Wagoner  
Kurt Schwartz  
Marsha Lott

### EPISODE IV: "IN THE BEGINNING"

Susan Schwartz  
Lori Schuh  
Janice Edwards  
Crystal Sutton  
Beth Roche  
Becky Bargdill  
Kim Stryker  
Vicki Smerchek  
Diane Weaver  
Paula Miller  
Crystal Nowak  
Carey Sigler  
Carrie Brake  
Cindy Jones  
Dianne Davis  
Debbie Lister  
Sarah Woody  
Coleen Osborne  
Julie Weeks  
Kay Comer  
Laura Blevins

Debby Bargdill  
Penni Fincham  
Carla Sutton  
Connie Whitesell  
LaDonna Nemechek  
Glenda Noland  
Patsy Sutton  
Irene Dettmer  
Nancy Nemechek  
Vicki Feldhausen  
Marjorie Yungeberg  
Jim Noland

### EPISODE V: "AND SO WE BEGIN"

Ruth and Albert Meyn  
Charles and Eva Flower  
Ron and Sharon Grissom  
Charles and Mae Craft  
Charles and Marilyn Land  
Malvery and Gene Lott  
Don and Doris Bishop  
Eldon and Beulah Davis  
Dick and Lavonna Spunaugle  
Don and Norma Hirt  
Rudy and Annie Wichman  
Kaye and Kay Rogers  
LaVern and Carol Bechard  
Fred Craft  
Lorna Craft

### EPISODE VI: "THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS"

William Jones  
Fred Craft  
William Pishney  
Pete Wagoner  
Loren Smerchek  
Leonard Bigham  
Joe Stryker  
Ora Persell  
Calvin Gallup  
William Winter  
Charles Stuart  
Luther Estes  
Jewell Wagoner  
Maxine Craft  
Faye Coulter  
Doris Land  
Jane Pishney  
Grace Brooks  
Ilene Hardman  
Frances Kratochvil  
Athelia Persell  
Kelma Clear  
Cleo Smerchek



Helena Lamb  
Helen Johnston  
Mariam Funke  
Helen Pearce  
Rheva McKee  
Ralph Johnston  
Iris Stryker  
Anna Marie Wichman  
Glenda Miller  
Vi Stryker  
Elnora Perry  
Edna Hicks  
Mildred Hays  
Opal Skalla  
Challie Schafer  
Dorothy Johnson

EPISODE VII:  
" THE DAWNING OF THE 3 R'S"

Cassie Mather  
Don Bishop  
Terry Bishop  
Ricky Bishop  
Steven Youngstedt  
Kevin Gunn  
Max Shannon  
Randy Feldhausen  
David Osborne  
Bobby Brake  
Ricky Lister  
Rebecca Bargdill  
Beth Roche  
Julie Weeks  
Diane Weaver  
Kay Comer  
Debby Bargdill  
Coleen Osborne  
Barbara Moser  
Sherry Gunn  
Tresa Buchholz  
Joy Winter  
Debbie Winter

EPISODE VIII: " THE COMING  
OF THE IRON HORSE"

Nellie Stryker  
Marylee Woodyard  
Meriam Funke  
Shirley Lillibridge  
Maxine Haller  
Dorothy Johnson  
Vera Paige  
Doris Bishop  
Pam Thomas  
Leota Noland  
Zylda Padgett  
Wilma Watters  
Helen Johnston  
Carol Bechard  
Marilyn Land  
Helena Lamb  
Mae Craft  
LeVern Bechard  
Jim King  
Dale Stryker  
Charles Craft  
Lyle Wichman  
Garth McCoy

Rudy Wichman  
Fred Craft  
  
Abe Lincoln  
Gene Lott  
Bill Lamb, Jr.  
Dick Spunaugle  
Charles Land  
Eldon Davis  
Don Bishop  
Onna Marie Wichman  
Buelah Davis  
Maxine Craft  
Cassie Mather

EPISODE IX: "THE  
TURN OF THE CENTURY"

Angeline Bigham  
Leonard Bigham  
Monty Brooks  
O. L. Carter  
Ralph Johnston  
Vickie Feldhausen  
Sandra Boyd  
Lori Schuh  
Crystal Sutton  
Carrie Brake  
Michelle Hubbard

EPISODE X: " TURBULENT TEENS"

Connie Whitesell

EPISODE XI: " FLICKS,  
FLAPPERS AND FLIVVERS"

Cassie Mather  
Jim King  
Dale Stryker  
Colleen Wagoner  
Judy Stanley  
Amy Kotapish  
Janet Meyn  
Pam Dunmire  
Patty Godbout  
Kathy Boyd  
Jane Kittner  
Kathy Kittner  
Melinda Persell  
Sondra Boyd  
Debbie Lister  
Susan Weeks  
Carmella Woody  
Beth Roche  
Carrie Sigler  
Lori Schuh  
Carrie Brake  
Cindy Brake  
Vicki Feldhausen  
Don Musil  
Lee Stuart  
Rod Gallup  
George Gallup  
Bill Roche  
Jay Comer  
Rick Roepke  
Jay Vavricek  
Lynn Pearce  
Don Haller  
Scott Slupianek  
John Spunaugle

EPISODE XII " THE DEPRESSION"

Ed Hardman  
Pete Wagoner  
Ben Mall  
Boy Craft  
Ora Persell  
Bill Isaman  
Nels Johnson  
Walter Daman  
Venton Osborne  
Elson Mize  
Hap Marshall  
Dick Worthington

EPISODE XIII "OUR SEIGE FOR FREEDOM"

Nellie Stryker  
John Stryker  
Dennie Ball  
Carrie Sigler  
Jim Noland

EPISODE XIV: " THE FIFTIES"

Carmella Woody  
Colleen Wagoner  
Judy Stanley  
Amy Kotapish  
Janet Meyn  
Pam Dunmire  
Patty Godbout  
Kathy Boyd  
Jane Kittner  
Kathy Kittner  
Melinda Persell  
Sondra Boyd  
Debbie Lister  
Susan Weeks  
Beth Roche  
Carrie Sigler  
Lori Schuh  
Carrie Brake  
Cindy Brake  
Vicki Feldhausen  
Don Musil  
Lee Stuart  
Rod Gallup  
George Gallup  
Bill Roche  
Jay Comer  
Rick Roepke  
Jay Vavricek  
Lynn Pearce  
Don Haller  
Scott Slupianek  
John Spunaugle



# BLUE RAPIDS CENTENNIAL CORPORATION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

## CORPORATION OFFICERS

Jack Haller - President  
Robert Sigler - Vice-President  
Jewell Wagoner - Treasurer  
Wilma Watters - Secretary

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

William Perry Freddie Craft  
Alice Arnott Jim King  
Robert Schwartz Robert Sigler  
Maude Harris Marvyn Weeks  
Vic Stanley Iva Weeks  
Lila Denton

## INCORPORATORS

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Jewell Wagoner Cletus Fortier

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HEADQUARTERS CHAIRMAN - Alice Arnott

TREASURER - Robert Schwartz

REVENUE CHAIRMAN - Vic Stanley

Leola McLain Cassie Mather  
Frances Stump Maxine Haller  
Beulah Moore Don Winter  
Maude Harris Marvin Sedivy  
Norman Dederick Viola (Blondie) Breeding

SPECTACLE DIVISION CHAIRMAN - Jim King

Doris Short Jack Haller

Wilma Burr Judy Gunn

Dale Stryker

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN - Bob Sigler

Cassie Mather Maxine Haller

Don Roche Opal Skalla

Cletus Fortier Allen Bargdill

Burton Lister Barbara Stuart

SPECIAL EVENTS - Marvyn Weeks

A. A. Woody Helen Lynch

Mike Sodd Alex Sabin

Vera Wagoner Elmer Haecker

Rev. William Winters Randlyn Bargdill

Ethel Beasley Vera Paige

Geraldine Hnzida

WOMENS PARTICIPATION DIVISION - Lila Denton

Marilyn Land Bess Welch

Maxine Craft Margaret Blaske

Malvery Lott Iona Comer

Doris Land Linea Osborne

Doris Bishop Stella Osborne

Brenda Garrett Pat Rundus

Karen Nordquist Kathy Steinfort

Lavonna Spunaugle Beverly Edwards

Zelda Padgett Barbara Stuart

Connie Evans Mildred Hays

Luetta Moehlenbrink Lorna Craft

Helena Lamb Kathryn Warders

Marjorie Carlson

## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Marge Borck - Chairman Bobby Godbout

Marge Lockhart Ruth Meyn

## AWARDS COMMITTEE

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Bobby Godbout Iva Weeks

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Fred Rundus - Co-chairman Loren Knapp

Melvin Merrill

Kaye Rogers

Bill Barrington

KANGAROO KOURT - Donald Osborne-Chairman

COPS

Terry Gunn

Kaye Rogers

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Wilbur Paige - Co-chairman

Dale Comer

Garth MacCoy

Wayne Whitesell

Don Bishop, Jr.

Carol Whiting

JUDGE

Garth MacCoy

Ralph Gallup

Larry Claycamp

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James Welch - Co-chairman

ARRANGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Elnora Perry

Mary Stryker

Dorothy Gallup

Vi Stryker

Mary Kittner

Maxine Haller

Jan Schwartz

Madonna Hula

Bess Lamb

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Wilma Watters - Chairman

Jewell Wagoner

Joe Warders

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Arle Persell

Natalee Persell

Vera Craft

Betty Talbot

Virginia Sutton

Charlie Stuart

Jack Haller

Maxine Haller

Ora Persell

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Basil McKee

Milan Brokenicky

Larry Claycamp

Gene Fincham

AUDIENCE AREA COMMITTEE

Loren Knapp - Chairman

Raymond Estes

SPECTACLE TICKET DIVISION

Iva Weeks - Chairman

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Theda Skalla

Luetta Moehlenbrink

Ruth Conaway

Vi Stryker

Alice Arnott

Lila Denton

Adaline McMillan

Bessie Welch

Helen Johnston

Maxine Craft

May Mall

Mary Hill

Martha Sutton

Marilyn Land

Mae Craft

LuRee Gallup

Mrs. Roy Osborne (Estella)

Esther Fincham

Bessie Reinecke

Faye Coulter

Elnora Perry

Margaret Blaske

Doris Short

Ilene Hardmann

Helen Pearce

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Malvery Lott

Helen Lynch

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Mariam Funke

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Sally Stump

Evelyn Shannon

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Grace Brooks

Zelda Padgett

Anna Johnston



# BLUE RAPIDS CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

JUNE 28 thru July 4, 1970

Sunday, June 28

Morning  
8:00 p.m.

## RELIGIOUS HERITAGE DAY

Theme - "Faith of Our Fathers"

Morning services at each Church

Interfaith observance at Spectacular Site. Congregational singing and guest choir.  
Choirs from Waterville Lutheran, Methodist and Catholic Church

Monday, June 29

9:00 a.m.  
noon  
1:00 p.m.

## OLD FASHION BARGAIN DAYS

Old Fashioned Merchant Days -- Bargain Days (all day)

Headquarters open -- Register at the Hospitality Center

Frillie Lilly opens Blue Saloon

Midway and Fun Zone opens

Antique display open daily

Tuesday, June 30

9:00 a.m.  
Noon  
1:00 p.m.  
2:30 p.m.  
9:00 p.m.

## MERCHANTS DAY - Promotions planned by merchants

Headquarters open- Register at the Hospitality Center

Frillie Lilly Open Blue Saloon

Midway and Fun Zone Opens

Coin Auction at City Clerk's Office (to be sold -- matched sets 1-25 and 100)

Centennial Ball (at Gym, Tickets - \$1.50, Band, Carl Johnson)

MISS BLUE RAPIDS CENTENNIAL Announced

Wednesday, July 1

9:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.  
through  
7:00 p.m.  
Noon  
1:00 p.m.  
  
5:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.  
  
8:15 p.m.  
8:30  
8:45 p.m.

## GOVERNOR AND HOMECOMING DAY

Registration of Guests and Dignitaries at the Hospitality Headquarters

Time Capsule to be placed in Library

Hobby, Art and Crafts Displays at the Kansas Power and Light Building

Private and Group Luncheons arranged on your own Frillie Lilly open Blue Saloon

Midway and Fun Zone opens for afternoon and evening entertainment. Preparations for the Grand Parade. Afternoon entertainment

Governors and Other Dignitaries Dinner at Catholic Church -- by invitation

Grand Parade -- Floats, Bands, Military Units, Antiques, Mayors, C. of C. Representatives and Guests. (Starting South of Square to Highway 77 to Fairgrounds)

Introduction of Other Dignitaries

Governor's Address

Pageant Prologue -- Coronation of Centennial Queen and Presentation of the Princesses and Her Court

Premier Performance "History Along the Blue"

Thursday, July 2

7:00 a.m.  
9:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.  
through  
7:00 p.m.  
Noon  
1:00 p.m.  
  
2:30 p.m.  
4:00 p.m.  
Evening  
  
8:30 p.m.

## PIONEER AND LADIES DAY

(Hostess for the Day - Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Bill Lamb, Jr.)

Breakfast -- Sidewalk at Ida's Cafe and Blue Valley Cafe

Registration of Guests and Dignitaries at Hospitality Headquarters

Hobby, Arts and Crafts Display at Kansas Power and Light Building

Frillie Lilly Open Blue Saloon

Midway and Fun Zone Opens -- Afternoon and Evening Tours of Points of Interest

Antique Display -- Genesee Street

Centennial Belles Promenade on Square. Old Fashion Music and "Then and Now"

Tea -- Senior Belles -- Dazzling Belles

Pre-Pageant Entertainment -- Waterville Octet. (Recognition of Outstanding Pioneer Women and Women Leaders -- during intermission of Octet)

Introduction of Dignitaries and Guests. Prologue -- Introduction of Centennial Queen and the Princesses and Her Court. Second Performance of Historical Spectacular, "History Along the Blue"

Friday, July 3

9:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.  
Noon  
1:00 p.m.

## AGRICULTURE AND YOUTH DAY (FFA in Charge)

Registration of Guests and Dignitaries at Hospitality Headquarters

Hobby, Arts and Crafts Displays at Kansas Power and Light Building. Tours

Frillie Lilly Open Blue Saloon

Midway and Fun Zone Opens



1:30 p.m.	Parade of Youth, Pets, Bikes, etc.
2:00 p.m.	Kids Games -- FFA in Charge -- School Grounds
2:00 p.m.	
to	Threshing Bee -- Fairgrounds
5:00 p.m.	
5:30 p.m.	Alumni Banquet at Gym
8:15 p.m.	Pre-Pageant Entertainment -- School Music Department. Prologue -- Introduction of Centennial Queen and the Princesses of the Court.
	Third Performance of the Historical Spectacular "History Along the Blue"

Saturday, July 4	AMERICANISM AND GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY(American Legion-Honorary Chairman)
10:00 a.m.	Hobby, Arts and Crafts Display at Kansas Power and Light Building
	Tours to be Announced
Noon	Frillie Lilly Opens Blue Saloon
1:00 p.m.	Midway and Fun Zone Opens. Children Games
5:00 p.m.	Bar-B-Que at Fair Grounds
8:15 p.m.	Beard Contest to be Announced. Prologue -- Introduction of Centennial Queen and the Princesses of the Court
	Fourth and Final Performance of "History Along the Blue"

### SPONSORS OF HISTORICAL BOOKLET

Blue Rapids Industries	Burton Electric - Ivan Burton
Triangle Drug Store, Marysville	Kennedy Motor Co., Frankfort
Schooler Bros. Sale Barn - Jim, Dick and Vern and families	Baker Motor Company, Marysville
Bruna Imp. Co., Marysville - Hanover Implement Co., Hanover	Daisy Creem - Dale & Mae Livergood
Albert M. Meyn - Meyn Plumbing and Heating	Clete's Barber Shop
Chester Arnott	Maxwell's Buster Brown Shoe Store - Weldon A. Eddy
Regent Theatre	Ford Cars & Trucks, Frankfort
Drs. Ackerman & Ackerman, Optometrists	Jim Kennedy
Professional Bldg., Marysville	Claudia's Beauty Salon
Campgrounds Unlimited - Robert O. Klotz	J. C. Penney Co., Inc., Marysville
The Advocate	Blue Valley Cafe
Nemaha-Marshall Electric Cooperative, Inc.	Persell's Blue Rapids Greenhouse
City Sewing Machine Co. - Lee Dam, Owner	Fincham's Ceramics
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph L. Adkins	G. W. Stanton Hardware, Marysville
J & N Office Supply	Feldhausen Upholstery
Dixon Tire Co.	Eckart's Variety Store
Marysville Candy Co.	Holiday Laundry - Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Brake & Robert
Denton Service - Everett & Lila	Sam's Recreation
Miller's Shoebox	Browne's Apparel of Quality
Ackerman's * Jewelers since 1893 * Marysville	Kotapish Oil Co.
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Mike Summers	Mrs. Chester Arnott

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Mr. and Mrs. Gene Lott  
Donald Haller  
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Rebecca Ann Bargdill  
Gary Bargdill  
Eldon and Beulah Davis

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Mr. and Mrs. Terry Gunn  
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Gleed Gronquist	Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Strader	Mr. and Mrs. John Reynolds	Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Isaman
P. J. Protiva	Harold Strader	Mrs. Alta Barckley	Mr. and Mrs. Allen Bargdill
Jim Schlegel	Mary Horalek	Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Broky	Mr. and Mrs. Albert Boyakin
Sharon Tommer	Edwin G. and Lillian J. Brychta	Walter Merrill	Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sheaffer
Harold and Frances Stump	Mr. and Mrs. Tom Blodgett	Eldon Weller	Mr. and Mrs. Milan Brokenicky
Charlotte Berry	Mr. and Mrs. Theodore F. Musil	Farmers Coop Association	Mr. and Mrs. John B. Stryker
Darlyne Fabrizius	Mrs. Dorris Land	Joseph Holy	Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Funke
Stanley Skalla	Mr. and Mrs. Glen Sperry	Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Hill	Mr. and Mrs. John Boyd
Mrs. Joe Rundus	Alex Sabin	Howard Johnson	Jacque Haller
Earle Lamb	Mr. and Mrs. Don Gastmann	McLeod Cleaners	Jack and Maxine Haller
Durward Rodcker	Mr. and Mrs. Verne Merrill	Mr. and Mrs. William Padgett	Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Estes
Mrs. Mary Kotapish	Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Hunter	Mina Holly Aulbaugh	Mr. LeRoy Koehler
Mrs. Ed Kotapish	Arlo Bathauer	Mr. and Mrs. Chester Garrett	Mr. and Mrs. Harold Osborne
Mrs. Mary Lou Eckart	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Horalek	Mr. and Mrs. Chester Isaacson	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Roy
Don Eckart	Mark and Dorothy Karas	Dallas L. Stoudt	Mr. and Mrs. K. S. Fincham
Mr. Dorothy Gallup	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nelson	Josephine Jackson	Ruth and Marvyn Weeks
Lauren Smerchek	Ross E. Fritz	Mrs. Selon Bergsten	Lorraine Baker
Elmer Nelson	Mr. and Mrs. Dale Foley	Konrad Bergsten	Mr. and Mrs. Floyd M. Brown
Edgar Pralle	Susan Blaske	Mrs. Evelyn Saville	Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Stryker
Elmer E. Merrill	Richard Blaske	Mrs. Esther Finks	Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ubben
Phillip Novak	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Blaske	Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Heidebrecht	Mrs. Stella Hammett
Jerry Stritesky	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schlegel	James Donald Osborne	Edgar and Grace V. Hale
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Zidek	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kotapish	Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Osborne	Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Hula
John W. Thomson	Carroll Whiting	Mr. and Mrs. Ben Shriner	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hula, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Cary Skalla	Richard Zidek	Mr. and Mrs. James Welch	Mr. and Mrs. Ladd Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Lamb	Ralph Bergsten	Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pope	Mrs. Grace Fagan
Mr. and Mrs. Phil Smerchek	Clyde Whiting	Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Wichman	Elmer Haecker
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Skalla	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Winslow	Gary Ascheman	Mr. and Mrs. Don Nider
Harold Kotapish	Mr. and Mrs. George Merrill	Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Brooks	Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Whitesell
Virgil Blue	Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Fritz	Mr. and Mrs. C. E. King	Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Feldhausen
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Musil	Mrs. Ambrose Johnson	Carla Ascheman	Mr. and Mrs. I. C. Wagoner
Mr. and Mrs. William DeWalt	Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fritzson	Mr. and Mrs. Everett Murk	Colleen Louise Wagoner
Will Pishney	Fred and Viola Stryker	Larry, Carol and	Mr. and Mrs. John E. Crowder
Ike Dover	Dale Stryker	Douglas Claycamp	Mr. and Mrs. William Crowder
Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hula	Howard and Helen Miller	Flossie Ascheman	Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Smith
Loyal Vathauer	Paula Miller	Mrs. Veda Eckart	Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Nemechek
Leonard Bigham	Glenda Miller	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ham	Mr. and Mrs. William Whitesell, Sr.
Grace Rundus	Clifford Miller	W. L. Shannon	Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Mather
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Borck	Ed Zeller	Dr. and Mrs. W. L. McCormick	Kathy Ann Brooks
Jack and Myrtle Fincham	Paul and Irene Toburen	Dale Nester	Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Wilcox
Donald and Beulah Winter	Mr. and Mrs. William J.	Larry Nester	Mr. and Mrs. Haunce Haller
Mildred Ubben	Whitesell, Jr.	Pamela Dunmire	Mr. and Mrs. Everett Mather
Russell Hamilton	Mr. and Mrs. Francis Stryker	Barry Dunmire	Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gallup
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Torrey	Wayne Wichman	Gary Dunmire	Mr. and Mrs. Orvel Warford
Larry Gronquist	Oscar Weyer	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dunmire	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jenne
Mr. and Mrs. Carl L. Scott	Bette Wichman	Mr. and Mrs. Chester Newman	Floyd Lillibridge



Shirley Lillibridge	Lois Sarachek	H. Gordon Lathrop	Connie Banaka
Mary Ellen Glynn	Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Clear	Harold Lawless, Jr.	Mark Weeks
William L. Thornton	Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Padgett	Robert J. Lawless	Julie Weeks
Jean R. Thornton	Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Reed	Brent Alan Lawless	Susan Weeks
Miss Maude Wilson	Mrs. Stanley Pishny	Orville Carter	Mrs. Warren Weeks Lacy
Richard Moser	Miss Karyn Pishny	Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Craft	Donald Weeks
Garth MacCoy	Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Berner	Mrs. Marie Cohorst	Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Blaske
Ora Persell	Mr. and Mrs. George Reinders	Mr. and Mrs. Octave Skalla	Maude and Oscar Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Norman E. Dederick	Mrs. M. A. Fiscel	George Nester	Charles Wagoner
Barbara Ann Wagoner Schick	Miss Doris Short	M. Byron Lathrop	Melinda Persell
Mrs. Olga Reed	Lawerence Knudsen	Paul Thom	Dan Persell
Mrs. Geraldine Hnizda	Mabel M. Hale	Susie Buchholz	Andy Persell
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Sutton	Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stump	H. L. Gustafson	Jeffery Thornton
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Nemechek	Carl Keefover	Mr. and Mrs. Jim King	Ronald Thornton
W. L. Jones	Miss Lillie Shepard	Cheryl L. Wendland	Donald Thornton
Mr. and Mrs. John R. Watters	Mr. and Mrs. Harry Banaka	John Robert Nowak	Mr. and Mrs. Edward Klein
Rae Ellen Watters	Elsie Miller	Debra Ann Nowak	Mr. and Mrs. Glennes Schuh
Charles Nordquist	Claude Miller	Crystal Jo Nowak	Mrs. Helen Miller
Mr. and Mrs. John Marcy	Ross Parrott	Helen M. Johnston	Rodney A. Gallup
Mr. and Mrs. Foster Padgett	Virginia Parrott	Mr. and Mrs. Jim Heidebrecht	Donald R. Gallup
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dixon	Louise Beaver	Ivan Burton	Charles J. Mosher
Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Snodgrass	Donna Nicks	Howard Lathrop	Keith L. Williams
Richard and Vonnie Mullen	Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Osborne	Mrs. Eva Phillips	Margaret Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Dector Williamson	Elsie Estes	Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Adkins	Mrs. Matilda Kotapish
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Klotz	Arthur Terry	Mrs. Alvin Carlin	Mr. and Mrs. Clarence White
Leonard Dale Marshall	Mr. and Mrs. Albert Meyn	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stuart	Janet Meyn
Patricia Ann Marshall	Floyd Lockhart	Barbara J. Youngstedt	Jerry N. Banaka
Harry and Ruby Lamb	Mr. and Mrs. Elson Mize	Donald W. Botkin, DDS	James B. Crabb
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Godbout	Mr. and Mrs. Venton Osborne	Jon C. Gunn	Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Boyd
Robert W. Perry	Gar Schafer	Mrs. Evelyn Odles	Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Spunaugle
Michael K. Perry	Frantz Knudsen	Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Boyd	Mrs. Geneva Stauffer
Donald E. Bishop	Ed Schleier	Mrs. Faye Coulter	Mr. and Mrs. Leo Behrens
Doris Bishop	Ike Harper	Janet Meyn	Mr. and Mrs. John R. Marcy
Deborah Kay Bishop	John Ayers	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sigler	Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hays
Susan Elaine Bishop	Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Anderson	Mr. and Mrs. Chester Arnott	Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Reed
Terry Gene Bishop	Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Kelley	Charles Wade Land	Mrs. H. H. Wanamaker
Mr. and Mrs. R. J. McMahon	Mr. and Mrs. Tommy James	Mitchell Ray Land	Mrs. Minnie Knudsen
Mrs. Emma Kotapish	Larry A. Glasgow	Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Land	Mrs. Wille Hunt
Miss Paulina Osner	Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Glasgow	Kay Alisyn Comer	Mrs. George Reinecke
Kay and Darrell Denton	Mrs. Merle Stanley	Jay E. Comer	Mr. and Mrs. Dale Comer
Maurine and John Johnson	George A. Gallup	Mrs. Laura Swigart	Mr. and Mrs. Dennis L. Osborne
Rex Waxler	Mr. and Mrs. Bill Barrington	Mrs. Ruth Conaway	R. B. Faulkner
Donald Kelley	Miss Jamie Barrington	Janet Lee Craft	Mrs. Fred Smerchek
Lillian K. Brokenicky	Charles J. Watters	Jeanette Sue Craft	Mr. and Mrs. Arlin Moehlenbrink
Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hunt	Pearl Barrington	Mr. and Mrs. Harold Craft	Mr. and Mrs. Russell Stryker
Robin and Emory Weikel	Kay Ellen Stuart	David Osborne	Mr. and Mrs. Loren Knapp
Mrs. George Kratochvil	Lee Charles Stuart	Coleen Osborne	Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dammann
Brian and Mary Morris	Dr. and Mrs. Harold Lawless	Mr. and Mrs. Harold Marshall	Alice Richards
Harold and Virginia Sutton	Betty Stocks Belknap	Mr. and Mrs. Matt Stoffel	Elizabeth Edwards
Don Taylor	Janice Stocks Clottisill	Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stuart	Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Carlson
Melvin Merrill	Arlie Persell	Cecil Whiting	C. and C. Auto Sales
Dayton and Wilma Nester	Warder's Farm Center	Bonita Southerland	Dummermuth Implement
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stavlund	Andy Fred Gallup	John Schindler	Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Craft
Mr. William Davis	Lester Stewart	Tom Tillotson	Mr. and Mrs. Basil McKee
Leona Lathrop	Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pearce	Althea Paige	Frank and Eileen Sedlacek
Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Brady	Arthur E. Fincham	Philip Paige	Lloyd Markley
Mr. and Mrs. Ray McMillan	A. A. Woody	Wilbur and Vera Paige	Teal Dederick
Mrs. William Carney	Kurt Schwartz	Mrs. Lola Smidt	Kent Wayne Dederick
Anna Johnston	Susan E. Schwartz	Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Parsons	Mr. and Mrs. Joe Warders
Mr. and Mrs. John Carlson	Robert W. Schwartz	Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Brake	Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Kittner
Mr. and Mrs. Victor E. Stanley	Norman and Thelma Dederick	Robert Bruce Brake	Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Hill
Judy Stanley	Mrs. Veve Owen	Eugene M. Arnott	Mr. and Mrs. Loren Press
Bruce Stanley	Mr. and Mrs. William Kvicala	Mrs. Frank Flower	Mr. and Mrs. Vernon K. Rogers
Merle and Viola Breeding	Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sutton	Frank Flower	Phoebe Bender
Michael H. Breeding	Yelton and Golda Faulkner	D. S. Brake	Mrs. Ed Johnson
Patrick L. Breeding	Donald and Marjorie Roche	Cletus Fortier	Mr. and Mrs. Ben Veesart
Lowell Specht	W. H. Bedford	Claude Stowell	Byron Guise
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Lamb	John and Maxine Kotapish	Mrs. Claude Stowell	Louise M. Foltz



hattan. The power house was rebuilt, and retaining wall built on the west side of the river. This company sold to the United Power and Light Company of Abilene, which also owned the plant at Rocky Ford near Manhattan. At one time the company was owned by the North American Light and Power Company of Chicago, but of late years the ownership has been the Kansas Power and Light Company.

## NATURAL GAS

A pipe line company brought natural gas to Blue Rapids in 1931. This utility was installed without subsidy or other favor. The Company spent thousands of dollars in piping the town for delivery of its products in a very satisfactory manner.



Familiar "Early Day" street scenes. These two means of transportation were not so fast but quite dependable.

## WATER

One of the first enterprises set on foot in the spring of 1870 was the sinking of a public well on the public square but no water was found.

Subsequently the people accepted a proposition submitted by C. E. Olmstead to supply the city with water from the Blue River by the Holly system of water works and this proved successful.

In 1909 to 1911 the first pumping station on what are now the Fair Grounds was built. Soon the second station at the west end of the grand stand was constructed and furnished the necessary supply of water for many years. The last station was installed in 1934. In 1912, meters were placed on all service pipes and sale of water to consumers at a flat rate was discontinued. In later years many extensions of the mains were made until now most of the area of the city is served by the system. A big improvement was made with W. P. A.

funds by the construction of a water main on Main Street, thus finishing three routes for the water to travel in on its way to the reservoir.

The quality of the city water is first class as tested by frequent and periodical examinations by the state authorities.

## SOME HISTORY OF THE WATER WORKS

Of all the cities in Kansas, if not west of the Missouri River, Blue Rapids enjoyed the distinctive favor of possessing the Holly system of waterworks in the 1870's. These were introduced here about four years after the town was located by C. E. Olmstead, who attached a pump to his Flouring Mill machinery and laid the main pipe from the river to the public square. . . over a half mile distance. Side pipes conducted the water to the residences along the route taken at the low figure of \$1.00 a month. In the center of the square was placed a fountain which sent forth a cooling stream of water through the summer months. Hydrants were located at convenient points on the square for attaching hose in case of fire.

Through the hot weather the streets were sprinkled regularly to afford comfort and health at no cost to the community.

## CHICAGO FIRE TOUCHES BLUE RAPIDS

The pump and other fixtures for the waterworks here, not yet received, were destroyed by the burning of one of the depots during the Chicago conflagration. They were manufactured in Rochester, New York for Mr. Olmstead and Co. and designed expressly for use here. Every family in town will regret the loss and consequent delay though we are informed it is still the intention of getting a supply of water on the square this fall.

Times, October 26, 1871

## INTERESTING SITES AND FACTS FOR TOURISTS

Hale Smith, grandson of Joseph Smith, founder of the Re-organized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) conducted services at the Mormon Chapel at 4th and Genesee.

In April, 1898, burglaries were committed at Vermillion and Blue Rapids by the James Dalton Gang. They were apprehended and jailed at Marysville where they killed the undersheriff and escaped. They were captured and sent to the penitentiary by Sheriff S. Claire Guthrie Sr.

The river junction can be seen from the bluffs north of town and is truly a beautiful sight.



Independence crossing was a ford across the Big Blue River. It is located in section 31, Elm Creek Township, just a short distance from Alcove Springs. It derived its name from the wagon trains that crossed it on their way from Independence, Missouri, to the West.



Alcove Springs is situated east of Independence Crossing in a small steep canyon. The bed of the canyon is a hard limestone and the area makes an ideal camping ground. This grassy plateau, sloping toward the river was a favorite camping spot from 1830 to 1860 for settlers on their way to the west. The cool spring was known from New York to San Francisco. One of the first groups of white men to make use of Alcove Springs and the vicinity was General Fremont and the famous Kit Carson. They spent about a week at this historic spot. Before General Fremont and Carson came, Indians made use of this place as a kind of health resort and a base for their hunting operations.

The springs did not get their name until 1871 after thousands of Mormons had passed over the spot as well as caravans after caravan of emigrants had surged by in their mad rush to get to the goldfields. The spring was named by John Denton, member of the famous Donner Party, which stopped at this spot in May, 1871 while enroute to the Pacific Coast. Grandma Keyes, a member of the party, became ill and died there. She was buried May 19, 1871.

The spring is about 12 feet below an overhanging cliff which presents the appearance of an alcove. Denton saw this likeness when he gazed at it and he named it Alcove Springs. Denton carved the name upon a rock and the letters are still distinct. He called this spot the most romantic place he had ever seen. When one visits the area, you can still see the deep cut ruts left by the wagon wheels.



Blue Rapids is the home of "Campgrounds Unlimited," a publication which lists the exact locations, camping, and recreational facilities, for the thousands of public campgrounds throughout all of North America. It is the "Campers Bible" and the first of such publications.



"Rock Hounds" enjoy going out to the numerous sand pits and rock quarries to look for semi-precious stones and fossils. Clubs from all over Northeast Kansas come to look for rocks.

Our old fashioned limestone buildings would be of interest to many tourists. The library and bank buildings being some of the oldest in the state.

In the early history of the town the streets became impassable and a "mud boat" was built to take the people up and down the streets. It was a flat structure with runners attached underneath. It was horse drawn. This boat took the salesmen or "drummers" to and from the depots in bad weather. A replica of the boat would be an interesting attraction.

## LARGEST TREE IN KANSAS



A large Cottonwood tree located at the northwest corner of the fairgrounds is 23 feet 4 inches in circumference and probably here before the city of Blue Rapids ever came into being. It is very possible that the tallest tree in Kansas might also be in our Riverside Park. Records are being checked and measurements are being verified before definite claims are made on this tree, which is north of the shelter house.

## SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

### CHICAGO WHITE SOX VERSUS NEW YORK GIANTS

The world tourists, the Chicago White Sox and the New York Giants, winners of the National League Pennant, started on a tour in Cincinnati and it was announced they would play in Blue Rapids on October 24, 1913.

The town began preparing for the great day. The Omaha Bee carried the headline "The Only Town with the Nerve -- Blue Rapids". Blue Rapids, a little town in Northern Kansas, was the only town on the Union Pacific Railroad that had the nerve to put up the guarantee for the Giants--White Sox Game. It was the only place in the state that had the famous players.

On October 24, a warm Kansas day, Blue Rapids was favored with a ball game between the Chicago White Sox and the New York Giants. The roads were good and the autos came for miles around. The automobiles and trains brought in a crowd that made the town look like a city.

At 1:30, Mayor Wanamaker and the Blue Rapids Band, followed by the two ball teams, marched on to the field. For an hour the teams were warming up and the band gave frequent selections.

At 2:30 Umpire Klem called the game and announced the batteries--Denz and Daly for Chicago and Wiltse and Wingo for the Giants.





INTERIOR VIEW PEACOCK'S BAKERY



JESSE AXTELL AND CO. - Established 1886



YARDS OF THE BLUE RAPIDS LUMBER COMPANY  
Established 1903.



BRADY AND ROGERS  
Agricultural Implements and Vehicles



FRANK MARVIN'S SHOE, BOOK, MUSIC AND NOVELTY STORE



BARRAELOUCH'S VARIETY STORE



The game consisted of fast and classy playing but Chicago took an easy lead and the game was not an exciting contest. Benz pitched a magnificent game and Chicago won 8 to 5. The Chicago sluggers made four home runs but there would not have been but the auto line interfered with the fielders.

Players for the giants were Weaver, Schaefer, Chase, Crawford, Mattick, White, Daly, Rath and Benz. For the Giants, Thorpe, Magee, Lobert, Doyle, Merkle, Doolan, Donlin, Wingo, Eiltse, and Meyers.

Under the terms of the contract, the World Tourists had the choice of taking the \$1,000 guarantee or 80 percent of the gate and grandstand receipts. They chose the latter. The take totaled \$2,366.00. The ball clubs received \$1,892.80 and the boosters of Blue Rapids \$473.20 (from tickets). Parking, concessions and other sources saw a good profit for the people of Blue Rapids.



Chicago White Sox vs. New York Giants played ball in Riverside Park in 1913.



Parades were held around "the Square" when the Chicago White Sox and the New York Giants ball teams came to Blue Rapids.

The day was a big success and all the work in preparing for the big day was worth it.

Manager McGraw said he never saw such a large crowd handled better in a small town. It was estimated about three thousand people witnessed the ball game.

## BLUE RAPIDS CHAUTAUQUA HELD IN THE EARLY 1900'S



The first chautauqua in Blue Rapids held in July of 1908 ran from the 16th through the 23rd and was reported to have over-flowing crowds at every show. The tent seated 1200 people. There was a rest tent nearby where mothers could leave their babies and refreshment stands located handily, for those who desired to patronize them.

The Honorable Warren G. Harding was one of the first noted speakers and at that time was serving the state of



Ohio in general assembly and as lieutenant governor. Other famous speakers were W. J. Bryan, the great commoner, his daughter, Ruth Owen; W. H. Taft, Opie Read, the author; the Schildkrets orchestra from Vienna; the Royal Hungarial orchestra, The Italian Marina Band, Neapolitan Grand Opera Singers and the Royal Italian Guard's Band.

Blue Rapids was the smallest town in the United States to put on a Class A Chautauqua. These series of entertainments continued for 15 years.

People came with team and wagon, either brought their tents or rented them and stayed the week, enjoying a program of Bible Study, Lectures, Instruction, Addresses, Plays and Music.



Sunday at the Chautauqua could very well be the title of this picture. In the early 1900's, it found most all citizens of Blue Rapids, the surrounding communities and from distant places in attendance, at the mammoth tent show, arriving by train, horseback, horse and buggy, walking and some even by boat to get to this great entertainment held at Riverside Park for a number of years running.

A Chautauqua was for everyone. It was a staple article in entertainment, in amusement, in education and inspiration. The program was so varied that there was something for everyone's liking. Animal acts, singing, dancing, plays, orations, illusions, lecturers, funny men, contests and all enjoyable amusement.

The first Chautauqua in Blue Rapids was held in the year 1908 and was announced as a huge success.



Boosters for the Chautauqua were out all over the county and into adjoining counties prior to the opening of the tent show.

This scene is taken at Axtell. It shows 25 elegant Blue Rapids autos lined up in the street. Approximately 4 to 6 passengers for each auto went along to advertise the Chautauqua.

## GUIDELESS WONDER

The "Guideless Wonder" was quite a horse. He ran on the Blue Rapids Race Track in the year 1909. It is said that he took in over \$5,000 in a season.



The races in 1909 were all interesting but the one that held the most interest was "Guideless Wonder" a handsome horse which, without a rider or driver, went around the track twice at a good speed. It had been intended to send a running horse around with it to set the pace, but the horse selected wouldn't work and another horse that started couldn't begin to keep up.

An experienced horse trainer, Mr. Amos Castleberry, of Denver, brought a number of fast horses together to entertain the crowds. Purses amounted to over \$400.



Dog races were held in Riverside Park as a special attraction.



Cart races were part of the Marshall County Fair amusements



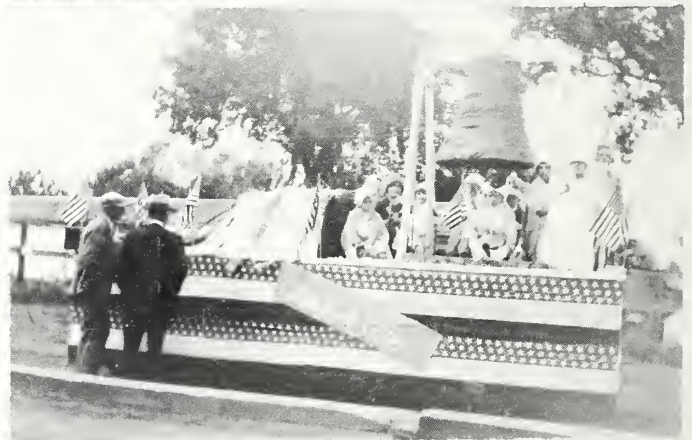


Crowds were attracted to Riverside Park for the Fairs and other forms of entertainment.

## RIVERSIDE PARK

The Town Company provided the area of 36 acres for a park. For many years not much use was made of Riverside Park. In the northeast corner there was a cluster of fine trees standing, known as "Mill Grove" which was utilized for public gatherings. Some improvements were made to the park. A boat landing was constructed, observation platform was built out over the river and a bridge built over the creek. In 1902, a barn was constructed by the Blue Rapids commercial club for the use of the Marshall County Hereford Association and here for about ten years sales of purebred cattle were held that drew buyers to Blue Rapids from all over the United States. The building is now the cattle barn at the Fair Grounds. In 1908, the first of a series of Chautauqua assemblies was held in the north end of the park which was often referred to thereafter as "Chautauqua Park."

These continued for about 15 years and it is worthy of note that Blue Rapids was the smallest town in the United States to put on a class A Chautauqua. In 1916 the Marshall County Stock Show and Fair association was organized and most of the present improvements in the park were constructed including the building, racetrack and grandstand and the fair has ever since been an important annual event for the county. In 1935, development of the southeast corner of the park as a recreation center was begun and shortly thereafter a swimming pool was built through the generosity of Mr. F. G. Begert. A scenic drive was laid out through the woods, a shelter house erected, a rustic bridge thrown across the creek, and other improvements made and it has become one of the most popular resorts in this part of the country.



Scenes from school parades during the Marshall County Fair







A scene from a school parade. In the foreground is Paul W. Kirkpatrick (on the right) a former County Superintendent of Schools.



Scenes from the Marshall County Fair and School Parades during the Fair.



Many family reunions have been held in the picnic area of Riverside Park.







Livestock play a tremendous roll in the Marshall County Fair held at the Fair Grounds near Riverside Park.

May 30, 1907

A grandstand was built in Riverside Park this week under the direction of G. W. Fairbanks. It is 12 feet wide and 48 feet long and will seat 200 people. A wire screen has been put up in front of it to protect it's occupants from "fouls". As it is put up by private parties the tickets to the ball grounds will not admit to the grandstand, but a small fee of 10 cents additional will be charged.

Hereford Sale Barn, May 30, 1907, Blue Rapids is the largest Hereford Center in the United States. The sale barn was erected by the Blue Rapids Commercial Club.

## FOUNTAIN PARK

When Taylor Holbrook prepared the plot of the city as it is today he planned Fountain Park in the center of the Public Square as the "hub" of the city. The fountain was installed in 1876 and a row of cottonwood trees were planted around the circumference of the circle. They were cut down in 1888 and new trees were planted. Sidewalks were laid, hedge planted, flag staff and soldiers memorial erected. Three different bandstands have been erected. The last one was then remodeled and made into the City Clerk's office. Blue Rapids citizens may well be proud of this park, which is unique among the towns of northeast Kansas.

## MEMORIAL TABLET

The bronze Memorial Tablet was erected on a boulder in Fountain Park on April 22, 1920. The upper portion of the tablet depicts a battle scene and is of high relief, below which are the names of our soldier boys. It is a fitting and worthy tribute to our heroes.



MEMORIAL TABLET



SCENES FROM "FOUNTAIN PARK"

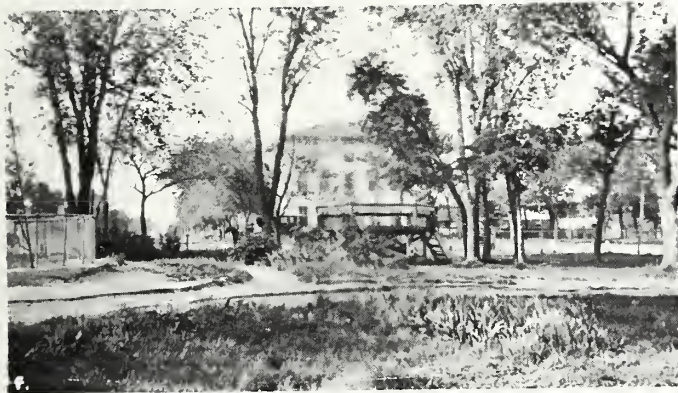


SCENE OF FOUNTAIN PARK





WINTER SCENE OF FOUNTAIN PARK, WEST ENTRANCE



OLD BANDSTAND IN FOUNTAIN PARK,  
OLD ALBION HOTEL IN THE BACKGROUND.

Successful reunion of the Old Settlers of Marshall County held in Blue Rapids, August 21-24, 1907. W. P. Brown, President; J. L. Hamilton, Vice President and H. C. Lathrop, Secretary.

The unanimous opinion of the people, visitors and citizens is that the twenty ninth reunion of the old settlers of Marshall County held in Riverside Park was a grand success.

The first two days were quite cool, which pleased everyone but the dispensers of cold drinks and ice cream. The last two days were hot enough to please them. The people came by team and by rail for miles around, and on Friday the attendance numbered several hundred.

The following program was arranged and carried out.

Wednesday, J. G. Strong, presiding with H. C. Lathrop as Marshall for the body. A welcome was extended by Mayor F. A. Train. A free barbecue of free beef and free bread. 4:00 p.m., a ball game - Atchison and Blue Rapids. 6:00 p.m., Balloon Ascension. 7:30 p.m. Campfire for old soldiers and settlers with Caleb Hulburt presiding.

Thursday, August 22. H. A. presiding. 10:30 a.m. basketball game - Blue Rapids and Frankfort; 4:00 p.m. baseball game - Barnes and Blue Rapids; presiding at the camp fire at 7:30 p.m. was Captain M. Norton.

Friday, August 23, C. J. presiding with a basketball game; baseball, balloon ascension and George S. Emmert presiding at the campfire.

Saturday, August 24, C. D. Smith presiding with an annual business meeting and an address by Honorable Tom McNeal followed by the ball game and balloon ascension.

A good band was featured each day. This reunion was an annual affair.



The Marshall County Old Settlers and Pioneers Association was organized at a meeting in Blue Rapids, September 12, 1879.

## STATE BANK OF BLUE RAPIDS



One of the most important events in the history of Blue Rapids was the opening for business, early in the spring of 1871 of the "Bank of Blue Rapids" now the State Bank of Blue Rapids. The building was erected during the preceding winter by J. L. Freeland and D. Fairbanks, an uncle of G. W. Fairbanks. In its inception it was a private bank owned by a partnership composed of Carlos E. Olmstead, J. S. Freeland and H. B. Olmstead, the latter a nephew of Carlos E. Olmstead. Carlos E. Olmstead, before coming here, had made a fortune in the flour milling business in New York state and as the head of a brokerage firm in Chicago that dealt in grain, flour and feeds on commission. He was reputed to be worth a quarter of a million dollars. In addition to becoming the head of the banking firm, he built the first mill at the dam, in later years erected the Masonic Building, the Public Library and at his own personal expense installed the water system works.

## CITIZENS STATE BANK

The Citizens State Bank on the southeast side of the square was built in the year 1904. It opened for business in February of 1905. In a years time the average deposits went to \$25,000. On its 7th anniversary, February of 1912, the average deposit was over 100,000.00.

Picture shows where the Citizens State Bank was located. Far left side of the picture shows the Arlington Hotel, next to it is Grangers General Store, now the Gamble Store. To the far right of picture is the Hy-Klas Store. At one time the telephone office was over the bank.





CITIZENS STATE BANK

## BLUE RAPIDS LIBRARY

Blue Rapids public Library, monument to pioneer women's inspiration, energy, talents has served the city continuously for 80 years.

Believed to be the oldest library in continuous operation in the same building in Kansas, is the Blue Rapids Library, now 80 years old.

Conceived by a need to promote moral and intellectual improvement in a new town and born during a depression resulting from a grasshopper invasion, the library association matured in spite of adversity.

After the members of the Genesee Colony arrived from New York State, March 8, 1870, and erected Colonial Hall for a town center, their wives and families began to arrive. It was not long after the homes had been established that the women accustomed to the cultural advantages of their former home towns, felt the need of a library.

By April, 1874, a notice appeared in the issue of the Blue Rapids Times that "All those ladies of Blue Rapids who feel an interest in the establishment of a public library here are invited to meet in the parlor of the LaBelle house next Saturday afternoon at three o'clock".

Interest was high and in answer to the call many ladies met in the parlor of the LaBelle House and formed themselves into a society called Blue Rapids Library Association, according to the early files of the Blue Rapids Times.

"They hoped to be able before winter to open a library and reading room. They are now ready to receive donations of books or money and still more they desire everyone's God Speed," said C. E. Tibbets, editor, on May 7.

At the first meeting officers were elected and a constitution discussed and revised. Mrs. J. E. Ball was elected the first president and other officers were Mrs. J. I. Wright, vice president; Mrs. C. E. Tibbets, secretary; Mrs. M. E. Reed, corresponding secretary and Mrs. C. L. Rodell, treasurer.

The executive committee included Mrs. C. E. Ball, Mrs. G. B. Stocks, Mrs. J. M. McPherson, Mrs. C. F. Beech and Mrs. A. E. Sweetland. At the next meeting in Coulter Hall, six more directors were added, Mrs. C. F. Mussey, Mrs. A. W. Stevens, Mrs. J. W. Davis, Mrs. H. H. Goodland, Mrs. S. E. Dawes and Mrs. A. M. Armstrong.

However acquisition of the necessary books to open a library moved slowly and pleas were sent by printed circulars to their old friends in the East and distributed locally, telling the need of a library and asking for reading material.

By June a charter had been secured from the state and on June 27, 1874, the library was opened in D. W. Hinman's store with a total of 143 books. Two girls, Mary Wright and Lizzie Hall were the librarians according to the Blue Rapids

Times. Here was a great demand for books and often two librarians and one or two helpers were necessary to check out books on Saturday afternoons.

As the year progressed a box of 108 volumes arrived from Cooperstown, New York, and popular Senator Ingalls contributed two books.

It was not long until the men impressed with the earnestness of the ladies in their project and the service rendered by the library to the community decided to lend assistance. One of the few remaining \$300 lots located on the east side of the public square was donated by the Town Company as a building site. Enthusiastic with the acquisition of a site, the Ladies Association commenced money raising ventures to finance construction of a building.

First attempt at fulfilling the need for culture was a lecture at Fitzgerald Hall by Professor W. H. McHarg, for the magnificent sum of 15 cents admittance. The lecture which was well attended dealt with the burning issue of the need for a library.

During the year, crops had been short due to a grasshopper invasion and work was scarce. To furnish work to a great many men out of employment, the mayor, C. E. Olmstead offered to make a donation of \$250 to start the building if the ladies would raise a like amount to match from the citizens.

The ladies began a series of lectures, festivals and entertainments to carry on the building. Money was loaned by individual members and friends of Professor McHarg in New York gave \$50.00. A "Lady Washington Tea Party" benefit, a high social event during October netted \$63.

Laying of the cornerstone of the new building, October 20, 1875, was a historic moment recognized by the town citizenry as the members of the library board met at Mr. Hinman's store and were conducted to the new building by a brass band. Mayor McPherson placed a sealed can in the stone containing the constitution and by-laws, and a history of the association and C. E. Mussey made an appropriate speech, complimenting the ladies on their success.

However, the construction of the two-story building slowed down because of the lack of funds. In April an entertainment of music and tableaux added \$43 to the building fund. To save money, the library which now contained more than 1,000 volumes was moved to T. F. Hall's store which was offered to the library rent free.

By the early part of 1876, the ladies occupied the back room of the library building for the library but the upstairs and front room were still unfinished.

When the front or main room was completed, alcoves lined the walls, but later were removed as impractical as people would visit in the booths disturbing those who came to read. Later the back room was occupied by Mrs. Holmes for her painting class and both the basement and upstairs were rented when completed. Funds secured from the rental were used to make necessary payments for maintenance.

For more than 65 years the Ladies Library Association existed in Blue Rapids raising funds for the maintenance of the library. However in 1941, it was converted to a city library and is now supported by a small tax levy.

Many of the volumes of books which formed the library nucleus may still be found on the shelves.

The books in the library are catalogued according to the Dewey decimal system.

Popular institution of long standing has been the children's story hour each Wednesday afternoon during the summer months. The library is also open each Saturday afternoon until nine o'clock in the evening.

Books are loaned to the library from the Kansas Traveling Library Commission which help supplement our own collection.



## EARLY BLUE RAPIDS BUSINESSES



W. P. BROWN AND BROTHERS HARDWARE STORE WAS LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE "SQUARE". NOTE THE INTERESTING ITEMS FOR SALE.



BLOCK OF EVERGREENS IN NEVINS' BROS. NURSERIES



JOHN L. RODKAY'S GENERAL REPAIR SHOP  
AND IMPLEMENTS



Although the names associated with the founding of the library and the first board members similar to the names of the first town settlers, are now only a memory in the early history, the stone building which has continuously housed the library for nearly 80 years, is a monument to their inspiration.

Now 16 years later on May 6, 1967, at the age of nearly 96 years the Blue Rapids Public Library is continuing to grow and improve its service to the community.

Increased library service began on October 18, 1966, when the rotating book service began its rounds to the local participating libraries. Book collections of approximately 100 volumes were selected by the local librarian from the book van and loaned to the patrons. The books remain in the library for one month when the van returns to pick up the books and leave new ones.

The rotating book collections are a part of the cooperative services of Kansas Libraries now planning for systems of libraries. These systems are an association of autonomous local libraries working together to improve library service to all residents of the state and we are proud that our library is a part of the system.

At the present time the library contains approximately 5,475 volumes, a variety of magazines and 100 or more volumes from the North Central Kansas Library rotating book van.

The number of subscribers to the library are steadily increasing, and we are especially pleased by the number of children who are coming in to get library cards. It is the children of today who will be the adults of tomorrow. The library is now open three days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from one o'clock until six o'clock. Miss Doris Short is the present Librarian.



The library is located next to the Frank Marvin General Store. Business Men's Clubs and other organizations held meetings on the second floor of the library.

## RAILROADS

In the 1860's the Federal Government was very anxious to have a railroad constructed from the Missouri River to the Pacific Coast and this feat was accomplished by the building of the main line of the Union Pacific extending from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Ogden, Utah, where it connected with the Southern Pacific. Another company was organized which built a railroad west from Kansas City, known as the Union Pacific Eastern Division and sometimes as the Kansas Pacific. Still another company was organized at Atchison, Kansas to build a road west from that point and as its route lay between the other two roads it was named the "Central Branch" of the Union Pacific. Construction was started immediately after the Civil War and it reached Waterville, one-hundred miles west of Atchison in December, 1867. The Federal Government granted a subsidy of land and bonds to apply on the cost of building it.



SNOWPLOW IN USE AFTER HEAVY SNOWFALL

On January 17, 1868, a special train under the charge of J. S. Pierce, conductor, conveyed the government railroad commissioners, General N. B. Buford, General Frank P. Blair and William N. White, to Waterville, the terminus of the hundred miles. A small party of Atchison citizens accompanied the party. Accounts state that the ride was a pleasant one and was made at good speed. A heavy snow storm set in during the progress of the inspection and the return trip to Atchison was through the storm all the way.

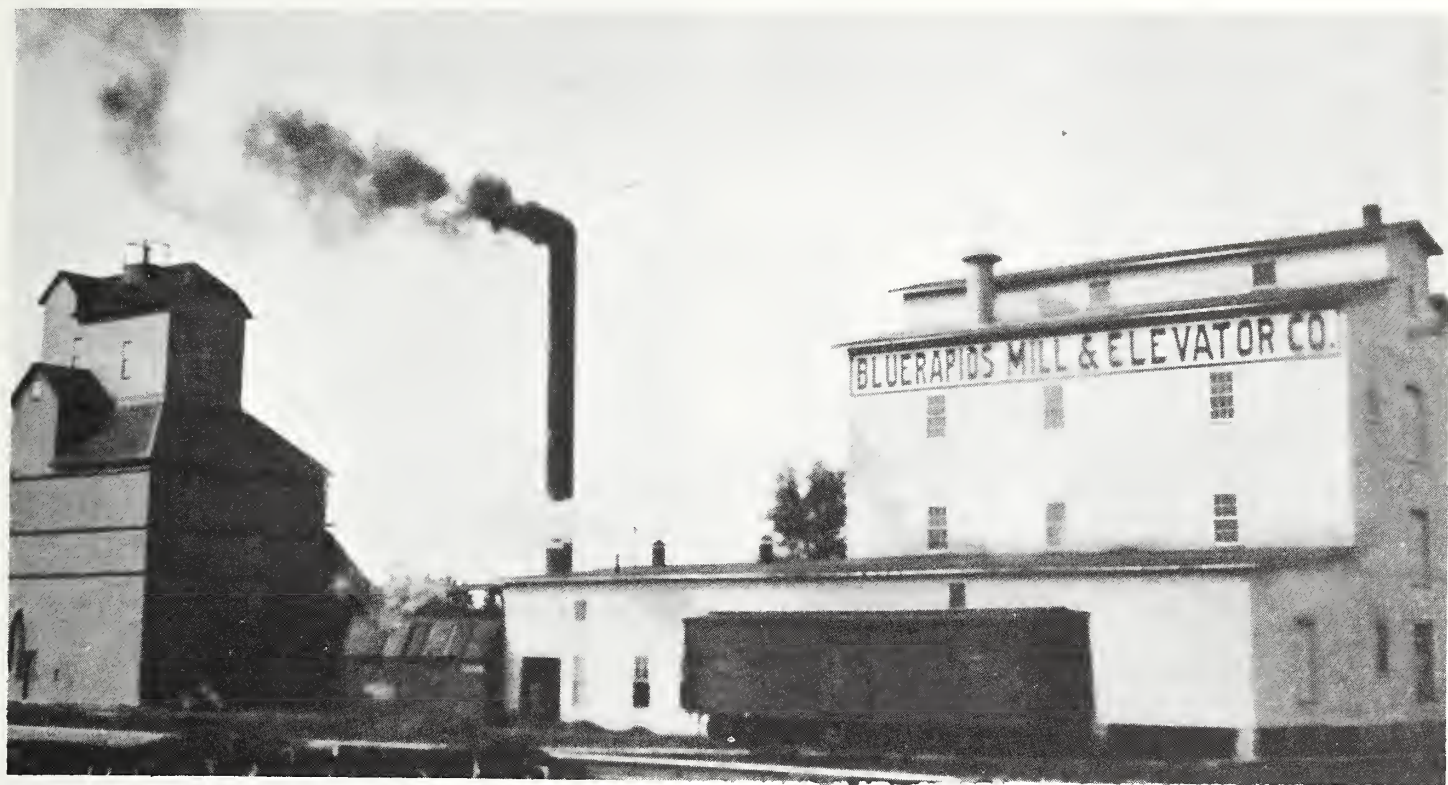


A scene of the old North Bridge across the Blue River that carried all the traffic for U. S. Highways 77 and Kansas Number 9 highway after the East Bridge was destroyed during the 1941 flood. The Highway for Number 9 followed "The Narrows" along the river.

Along about 1883, Jay Gould, the railroad magnate of that time, was getting a corner on the railroads of the country and he purchased the Central Branch. He had purchased the



## HISTORY OF A FIGHTER "THE FLOUR MILL" SHOWS THE STRENGTH OF BLUE RAPIDS IN THE EARLIER DAYS OF THE COMMUNITY



The world loves a fighter. The business world admires a man or a firm that has been knocked down but braced up again and surmounted the obstacles in its way. Among the Blue Rapids firms hard hit by the flood, was the milling firm of P. Anderson and Co., composed of Peter and Anders Anderson. The above cut represents their flouring mill and elevator as it stood on the banks of the Blue. The mill had just been completed and a good business started when the high water of 1902 came and flooded the elevator, filled with fine wheat, and the grinding floor of the mill, entailing heavy losses. When the waters subsided the wheat was dumped out and the mill cleaned up and business resumed. Then came the unprecedented floods of last spring which wrought havoc galore to this firm, ruining thousands of bushels of wheat, temporarily destroying the water power by which the mill was run, and the new river channel threatening with each recurring raise to engulf the building in the waters. Discouraged but not entirely disheartened, Anderson and Co. decided that they would move their mill to higher ground. Accordingly they purchased the big elevator on the Missouri Pacific tracks, a mile away from the river, together with a building site for a mill. The Blue Rapids Milling and Elevator Co. was organized with P. Anderson as president, C. E. McAtee, vice-president; J. L. Barnes, secretary and Anders Anderson, treasurer.

October 1, the big task was started of tearing to pieces the above mill, piece by piece, hauling it a mile away to their new location, and there putting it together again. The whistle of the big engine that is to run the combined mill and elevator blew for the first time last Monday morning and announced that the big job of moving all the machinery, tearing down the mill and rebuilding it and replacing the machinery had been accomplished, and that the new concern

was ready for business, and it's a plant that any firm might be proud of, one that is an honor to our town.

The milling firm, by its purchase of the elevator, which is one of the largest on the Central Branch line of road, has an immense storage capacity for wheat, as well as being thoroughly equipped for the handling of all kinds of grain.

The flour mill is probably one of the most up-to-date mills that can be found in the west. Not only was the machinery the best made when put in the mill, but it has been kept right up-to-date, additional labor-saving devices and improved methods being constantly added. Since the mill has been rebuilt there has been added not only sufficient new machinery to increase the capacity a third more, but also one of the latest purifiers and one of the most modern sifters with 80 different sifting pans. The capacity of the mill has been increased to 200 barrels of flour every 24 hours. Mr. Peter Anderson, one of the best millers in the West, will give his personal attention to the milling department, which is a guarantee that the standard of flour will be of the highest grade.

It was not known when the rebuilding of the mill was started, at what time the water power would be restored and available, so the company contracted for a fine Corliss engine of 100 horsepower capacity to furnish power for the mill and elevator. We are told that there is not as fine an engine in this section nearer than Holton. The engine and boiler are housed in a large fire-proof power-house in separate rooms. It is the intention later on to make use of the company's 100 horsepower of water power by putting in a dynamo and conveying the power by wire to the mill, thus being equipped with the cheapest power on earth and also having steam to use during periods when high water renders the water power unavailable.

(Taken from the March 17, 1904 issue of the Times.)



Missouri Pacific in 1880, and this Central Branch later became part of the Missouri Pacific.

The town of Waterville was built around the terminal of the railroad and was founded by Judge Ward L. Lewis, formerly of Maine, and the grandfather of the late John L. Berry. For a number of years and until the railroad was extended further west, Waterville was the metropolis of Marshall County.



The Union Pacific railroad bridge in the background was used across the Blue River until it was razed to make way for the Tuttle Creek Dam project.



A close-up view of the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge that crossed the Blue River. Note the windmill that pumped water to the plaster mill and depot for water supply for the steam engines.



UNION PACIFIC DEPOT; MOTOR CAR; HACK TO TRANSPORT PEOPLE TO TOWN

The Manhattan and Blue Valley railroad was built in 1886, following the Blue River to Manhattan, Kansas, going through Marysville, Schroyer, Blue Rapids, and Irving, in Marshall County. Later this was named the Lincoln and Manhattan Branch of the Union Pacific. It was often referred to as the "Manhattan Cut-off." This was in use until 1960 when the valley land was taken for Tuttle Creek Reservoir construction.

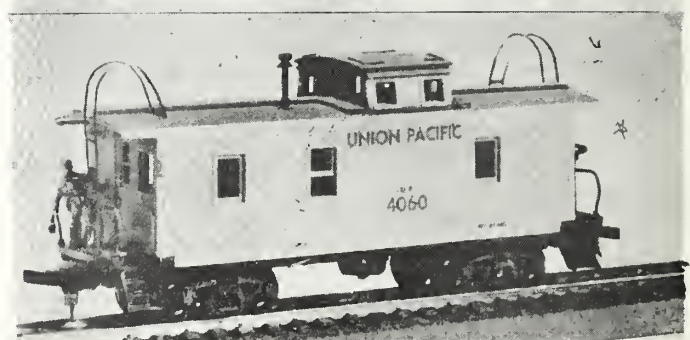


Flooding river leaves ice along Union Pacific tracks, 1911

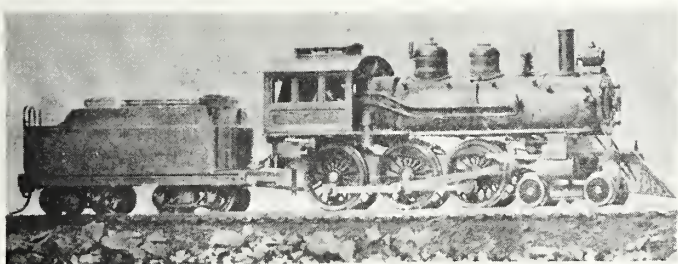
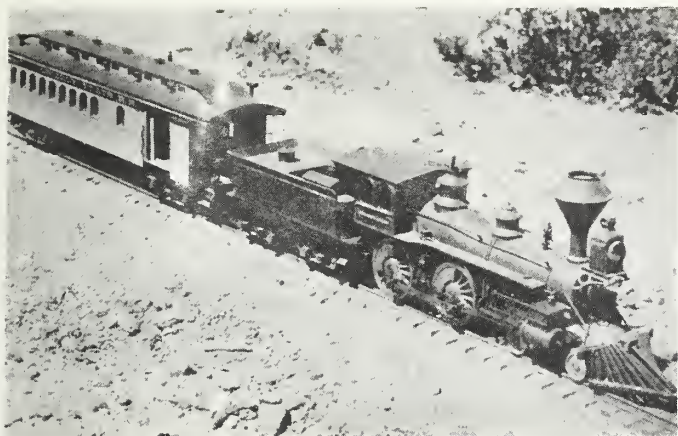


Residents of Blue Rapids were favored with a visit from President Theodore Roosevelt as his presidential coach arrived at the Union Pacific depot. A short address was made from the platform to the public.

Twice in the history of Blue Rapids, presidents rode over the Union Pacific on special trains.







## IMPORTANT PEOPLE

### JASON YURANN

Jason Yurann was born at Lancaster, New York and passed away in 1922.

He could be called the Mr. Blue Rapids, as he was primarily responsible for the founding of Blue Rapids.

He settled in Irving, Kansas in 1865. In 1868, he returned to New York and spoke at a General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at Batavia, New York, the county seat of Genesee County, he told them of our country, the Blue Valley.

He was given an excellent education and was especially proficient in the use of the English language. He was shrewd, forceful and foresighted personality with a remarkable ability to discern the motives and acts of others which he deemed detrimental of his own interest.

In his prime he was a man of commanding presence and an impressive personality, these united with a pleasing social quality.

He always professed a great interest in religion. He was ordained as an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

For a time Jason Yurann was employed in Washington D. C. as a postal employee. He studied law to become a lawyer. Later he returned to Blue Rapids to be a real estate agent and a loan broker in which he was very successful.

Yurann, when at general assembly, succeeded in finding a preacher, Rev. Charles F. Mussey who was interested in coming to Blue Rapids, and in the fall of 1869 a preliminary meeting of those interested in Kansas was held at Batavia, New York.

A colony was organized with the following officers: Rev. C. F. Mussey, President; Taylor Holbrook, Vice President; S. A. Parmalee, Treasurer and C. J. Brown, Secretary. A location committee consisting of Rev. C. F. Mussey, A. J. Bovee, and J. B. Brown came and located in the present site of Blue Rapids. Our thanks to Jason Yurann, as he was the one who succeeded in encouraging these men to come to our Blue Rapids.

Jason Yurann was one who believed this the most promising site in the state for a city with great industrial possibilities.

He was often referred to as "Colonel Sellers," as known to lovers of Mark Twain.

Yurann has always, in season and out of season, through evil or good report, been a loyal worker for Blue Rapids.

Blue Rapids would not be complete without recognition of what he has done in her interest.

Jason Yurann was laid to rest in Fairmont Cemetery. People of our Community purchased a marker for Mr. Yurann.



JASON YURANN

### JOHN MCPHERSON

John McPherson was born in Scotland in 1835. He learned the trade of a cabinet maker and joiner. He answered President Lincoln's first call of troops in 1861 and served throughout the Civil War and retired as a captain.

He married and came to Blue Rapids on July 4, 1870, and succeeded Taylor Holbrook as mine host of the hotel maintained in Colonial Hall. On behalf of a partnership composed of himself, his father-in-law, C. Y. Reed and Henry Halburt, he accepted the proposition made by the Town Company to donate five lots of the Public Square to anyone who would erect and operate a hotel of certain specified dimensions.

Captain McPherson withdrew from the partnership and engaged in real estate, loans and insurance business.

He organized the Fairmont Cemetery Association. He possessed real ability as an architect and designed the Presbyterian Church and public library building and said to have had a hand in planning the State Bank building and Magnesian Block on the north side of the square.

In 1895, he organized the Opera House Company and the structure at the corner of 6th and Genesee Street was built from plans he prepared.

1897 - after what was possibly the hottest political battle ever waged in Blue Rapids, McPherson was appointed postmaster and served several years.

1870 - his eldest daughter Nellie died in the fall, being the first death in the colonist.

### DR. RUFUS S. CRAFT

Dr. Rufus S. Craft - He was born February 11, 1831 to Samuel and Elizabeth (Hines) Craft. One daughter survived;



Julia Ann, wife of Henry I. Hewitt and one son survives, George Hewitt.

In 1865, Dr. Craft who was interested in mill enterprises, heard of the waterpower on the Blue River and came to Blue Rapids, Kansas to inspect it and found it to be the best water power in the state. Dr. Craft bought 70 acres which now adjoin Blue Rapids on the west and borders on land bought in connection with the water power.

In 1870, he sold to the Genesee Colony which laid out the town.

As a physician here his services were in constant demand over the country.

As a business man he was trusted and as a citizen he was justly held in high esteem.



DR. RUFUS S. CRAFT

#### WILLIAM THOMPSON

The people of Blue Rapids City and vicinity, regard Mr. Thompson with warm interest as being the oldest settler. He came to northern Kansas in 1858. He accepted the position of Postmaster of Blue Rapids in 1885.

He was married in 1838 to Miss Mary Jane Ohlhausen of Rock Island County, Illinois. They were parents of 8 children.

#### JAMES G. STRONG

James G. Strong was born at Dwight, Illinois in 1870. His father moved the family home to St. Marys, Kansas in 1882. In 1889, he enrolled at Baker University at Baldwin, Kansas.

In 1891, Strong located in Blue Rapids, his father operating the McHale flour mill under a lease and he was associated with him in the enterprise. He also opened a real estate, loan and insurance office.

He was united in marriage to Miss Frances Coon. Two children were born of this marriage. Their son, George E. Strong, and a daughter Erma Strong.

In 1895, Mr. Strong was admitted to the bar and served as city attorney for Blue Rapids. Probably his most important law suit was for certain stock holders in the Yurann's Blue

Rapids Company for the winding up its affairs in which he won both in district and supreme court.

In 1906, he became owner of the Blue Rapids Telephone Company and for a time also owned the Waterville system. He disposed of a half interest in the Blue Rapids system to H. F. Kaump.

In 1913, he organized the Marshall County Power and Light Company which purchased and rehabilitated the Blue Rapids Water Power.

In 1916, he was elected county attorney for Marshall County.

In 1918, he was elected to represent the old Fifth District in Congress and filled this post for fourteen years. He was communicant and vestryman of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

#### FESTUS COOLEY

Festus Cooley was born probably in Ohio in 1820, came to Blue Rapids in 1874 and became the individual owner of the sector of the Public Square. He improved the property and business buildings as there was a demand for them and soon he derived a handsome revenue.

He was one of two men outside the Stocks families who were invited to purchase stock in the State Bank of Blue Rapids when it was incorporated in 1891 and he filled the office of Director and Vice-President. He passed away in 1895.

#### EDWIN M. BRICE

Edwin M. Brice, born in Nottingham, England came to the United States in 1861. Years that followed he worked at his trade - printing. Also served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

He went to Chicago and became foreman of the Chicago "Advance". In the great Chicago fire he lost his position and lost his home. He next purchased half interest in a weekly paper published at Oberlin, Ohio.

In 1877, he came to Blue Rapids and purchased a half interest in the "Times" and bought the other half interest the following year. He was an active member of the Congregational Church.

For twenty-seven years he continued as editor and publisher of the paper but during the last ten years of this period, L. B. Tibbetts was his partner in its publication. He sold his interest to Charles C. Tibbetts in 1904. Later he left to make his home in Florida about 1910. He departed this life in 1928.

#### CHANNING J. BROWN

Channing J. Brown, born at Oakfield, northeast portion of Genesee County, New York, on October 13, 1847. He received his college education at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, and devoted some time to the study of law.

He was frequently referred to as a lawyer. He attended the first meeting that was called by Rev. Charles Mussey to consider the organization of a company to found a town in Kansas. His father, John B. Brown and wife and the rest of the family came to Blue Rapids with three other sons, Walter P. Brown, Frederick K. Brown and Ernest J. Brown; also two daughters, Mrs. Alice Armstrong and Miss Stella Brown who later became Mrs. Charles K. McHarg.

For a half a century the family filled an important place in the financial, commercial and social life of Blue Rapids. When the town was incorporated as a city in 1872, Channing Brown was appointed the first city clerk and the earliest records of the municipality are in his handwriting.

In 1874, Brown was elected to the lower house of the legislature when he was 27 years of age. Two years later he was promoted to the State Senate and became widely known as a politician. He became clerk of the Kansas Supreme Court in 1879.



#### ALBERT E. SWEETLAND

Albert E. Sweetland, born in Genesee County, New York in 1839. He became an expert accountant and was for several years head bookkeeper for a large wholesale house in Buffalo, New York. However, he decided to reenter active life and came to Blue Rapids in the fall of 1871 to look over the town and country.

He entered into partnership with John A. Loban.

This firm of Loban and Sweetland prospered and eventually occupied the west two-thirds of the Magnesian block on the north side of the square. They had a very extensive stock of business. Mr. Loban passed away in 1886, and in 1893, Mrs. Sweetland purchased from the Loban heirs, Mr. Loban's interest and operated the store until 1904.

Prices on some of his merchandise were as follows: gingham, 8¢ a yard; dimities, 5¢ a yard; corded chambrays, 13¢ a yard; picques, 11¢ a yard; parasols, 45¢ to \$1.95 each.

Mr. Sweetland was regarded by fellow citizens as a fine, uprighteous man. He served as Mayor, councilman and a member of the Board of Education. He was also president of the Blue Rapids Commercial Club.

Mrs. Sweetland was one of the organizers of the Tuesday Afternoon Club. When the Opera House was in financial trouble, Mrs. Sweetland saved it from passing into the hands of strangers.

#### DR. ROLLIN S. FILLMORE

Dr. Rollin S. Fillmore, born in Elkton, Illinois on December 22, 1854, and passed away November 1, 1944. He lost both of his parents when he was young and made his home for a time with his aunt Cass and uncle Frederick Merrill. While attending normal school, his desire was to study medicine, probably because his father was a physician.

In later years he enrolled in Missouri Medical College. After his first year in medical college he opened an office under tutelage of Dr. L. P. Stookey in the town of Fayetteville, Illinois. In the fall he returned to Medical college and remained until graduation. On December 21, 1885, he was united in marriage to Miss Ada Louise Burn. To this union three children were born, Louise Euphene, Rollin Slossin, Jr. and Benjamin Dewitt. Louise married Dr. R. W. Weston.

Rollin Slossin, Jr. graduated from Medical department of Washington University of St. Louis, Missouri the same college where his father had graduated twenty nine years previously.

Benjamin Dewitt was a civil engineer. He was very successful and along with some engineers, went to Brazil to construct the Leopoldine railroad across swamps to Rio de Janeiro.

Dr. and Mrs. Fillmore located in Blue Rapids and for forty-six years was our doctor here and to our adjoining towns of Irving, Bigelow, Frankfort, Waterville, Marysville and Cleburne, also the surrounding country.

Physicians' fees and physicians' collections are entirely different things. With a country doctor, long hours and small fees usually went together.

In early days, doctors made the charge of one dollar per visit and that included the medicine. In the country they charged one dollar per visit and fifty cents a mile.

Dr. Fillmore believes his largest fee was \$450.00 but this was for several weeks attendance on the patient.

In his day, he received for his services, such things as a goat, small potatoes, sugar and etc., not always money. His means of transportation, first on horseback and carried the old fashioned saddlebag. He then drove a team of stallions, then later a team of small horses. In 1908, he got his first new car, a Rambler he bought at Kansas City, Missouri.

He retired from practice of medicine in 1929 and he and Mrs. Fillmore went to Long Beach, California to make their home.

Dr. Fillmore was a member of the Masonic Fraternity, Eastern Star, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen and Royal Neighbors.

He also was a member of the Township Board, City Council, School Board and in church activities.

#### WILLIAM BURR SR.

William Burr Sr. was the first known Mason among the earlier settlers. He invented and manufactured a special form of a plow designed to break up the prairies of northeast Kansas.

Samuel Craft operated a steam saw mill near the Blue River manufacturing hardwood and cottonwood lumber.

Dorothy Stratton, daughter of a Baptist minister of Blue Rapids, about 1912 was head of the Spars and a Director of the Girl Scouts of America.

In the history of Blue Rapids, many notable and splendid men and women, among them Fred A. Stocks, C. J. Brown, Walter Brown, S. F. Paul, John Frost, G. G. Strong, S. R. Edwards, Fred Hunter, son of an early hardwareman and nephew of Dr. William Hunter was chancellor of Oregon State College, R. C. Coleman, principal of our school in 1895, is now a millionaire of Coleman Lamp and Stove Company.

R. S. Craft was elected president of the first board of directors of Prospect Hill Cemetery Association.

F. Cooley was elected president of the Blue Rapids Cemetery Association, known as Fairmont Cemetery.

Gideon Fitzgerald, a carpenter and contractor who located in Blue Rapids in 1870.

John A. Loban, successful merchant and religious leader.

Dr. William Coulter who with his sons and grandsons dominated the drug trade in Blue Rapids. His son, Clarence Coulter served several terms as mayor and many years as postmaster.

Judge John V. Coon and his son, E. J. Coon, lawyers.

#### JOHN V. COON

John V. Coon was born in Phelps, New York, March 30, 1822. He was of German descent and was a loyal friend to people of his lineage. He was educated at Hobarts College, New York. In 1842, he was married to Charlotte M. Miller. Their marriage was a very happy one. His aged widow still survives him. Judge and Mrs. Coon were the parents of one son, Emir J. Coon, who died many years ago.

In 1844, J. V. Coon and his young bride moved to Elyria, Ohio, where in his chosen profession, the law, he gained prominence and wealth. The panic of 1873 swept much of the wealth away and he again turned his footsteps westward, locating in Blue Rapids. He discovered the presence of gypsum among the ledges, near there, and he and his son, Emir, built the first mill west of the Mississippi river for the manufacture of plaster of Paris from gypsum. To John V. Coon and Emir J. Coon, Marshall county owes the origin of the largest single manufacturing industry within its borders today. These two men exemplified the highest types of manhood. They were able, cultured, broadminded and generous, ever looking forward to the growth and development of the county and the state, along educational, political and religious lines. On November 6, 1894, Judge Coon was elected county attorney of Marshall county. On January 4, 1895, he was buried.



The sympathies of a very large circle of friends were extended to the surviving members of his family. Mrs. John V. Coon, his widow, aged ninety-six years, and the widow of her son, Emir J. Coon, reside with Honorable James G. Strong, county attorney, and his wife, Fanny, who is a daughter of Emir J. Coon.

#### J. B. BROWN

J. B. Brown was one of the three commissioners sent to Kansas to select the location for the colony. He was one of the strong forceful men of the colony and his counsel was sought during many troublous times. He was always hopeful and optimistic during the darkest hours. He believed ardently in the future of Blue Rapids and was an honored and respected citizen of the town and of Marshall county. He died on March 11, 1885, and his death was felt as a personal loss to all those who knew him. His good name stands as a monument to his kindred and friends.

Mr. C. J. Brown was a member of the original town company and an active supporter of its enterprises. In April, 1872, he assumed charge of the real estate business of Olmstead, Freeland & Company. In 1874, he was elected to the state legislature, and in 1876, to the State Senate. He was later elected clerk of the supreme court, which position he filled for many years. He was married on September 10, 1881, to Mrs. Julia Greer of Topeka.

Mr. Brown has been one of the foremost citizens of Marshall county, since he became a resident and has been prominently identified with every forward movement along political, social and religious lines. His long service with the supreme court gave him a wide circle of friends over the state and his advice on public matters is sought by the most prominent people of the state. He is genial and courteous, resolute and courageous in all matters and is universally respected.

#### WALTER P. BROWN

The story of Marshall county boys who have made good, would make a very long and interesting chapter, and that chapter would certainly include the name of Honorable Walter P. Brown of Blue Rapids. Born in Genesee county, New York, in 1862, he was nine years old when he came to Marshall county with his parents in 1871. He was educated in public schools of Blue Rapids and had business training in the wholesale hardware store of Blish, Mize & Silliman in Atchison.

In 1889, after eight years of work for the Atchison firm, in almost every department of that great establishment, Walter Brown started the Brown Brothers hardware firm in Blue Rapids. In 1908, Mr. Brown was elected to the State Senate and served the four year term with great credit to his district and to himself. In his own community and in the county, he was a recognized leader for the things that are worthwhile.

Mr. W. P. Brown passed away on March 10, 1924. He was laid to rest in the Fairmont Cemetery.

#### W. F. BOYAKIN

The name of Doctor Boyakin was for so many years a household word in Marshall county, that a few lines must be written in his memory. He was born in North Carolina, May 30, 1807, graduated from Mary College, Tennessee, in 1826 and studied law with James K. Polk, the thirteenth President of the United States.

Boyakin came to Marshall county in 1868 and resided here until his death. On the anniversary of his one-hundredth birthday he delivered the Decoration Day address in the Turner Hall at Marysville.

He helped to build the first Methodist church in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was a graduate in law and medicine and a

licensed minister. When he was born, Thomas Jefferson was President of the United States and Aaron Burr was being tried for treason. Boyakin lived through the administrations of seventeen Presidents and saw many stars added to our flag. He was twenty years old when Queen Victoria ascended the throne of England. He was a widely-read and greatly-traveled man and possessed a remarkable memory. He served the county in many positions, but chiefly as an educator. He died on June 5, 1908, at his modest home on Elm Creek, where he had always lived and where his family still resides. W. A. Calderhead, then a member of Congress, delivered the final eulogy.

#### CARROLL D. SMITH

Carroll D. Smith, lawyer, was born October 11, 1882, in a house that stood on the site of his present residence. He is a son of Horace Smith, who with his brother Seth, emigrated from Onondaga county, New York, to Marshall county in 1869. His mother was born Laura Dawes in Lenawee county, Michigan. She moved with her parents from Grinnell, Iowa, to Blue Rapids in 1872.

Mr. Smith was graduated from the Blue Rapids high school in 1899. He taught a term in a country school and then was employed for several years in the office of the Blue Rapids Times as a printer, meanwhile devoting his time to studying legal textbooks.

On February 18, 1904 having passed the requisite examination, he was duly admitted to practice in all the courts of Kansas by order of the Supreme Court at Topeka, and the following May was enrolled as a member of the bar of the District Court of this county. For a time he was in partnership with the late J. G. Strong, then returned to his employment in the newspaper office, but in 1907, opened a law office on his own account and remained in practice for fifty-two years. He served as city attorney of Blue Rapids, was a member of the legal board during both World Wars and filled many professional appointments. He is an honorary member of the American Bar Association and was for four years president of the Marshall County Bar Association. He is a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellow fraternities.



Carroll D. Smith



## JAMES O. WHEELER

James O. Wheeler, born February 11, 1845 in Wabash County, Indiana was reared to manhood in his native state and bred to farm pursuits. He was deprived of his father's care by death when a lad of seven years and shortly afterward was wholly orphaned by the death of his mother.

During the Civil War, he entered the ranks of the Union Army enlisting August 4, 1863. When 18, in Company C, 118th Indiana Infantry as a private. He endured the ordinary hardships and privations of life in the army and made for himself a good record as a brave and faithful soldier.

Farming and stock raising interests of the Blue Rapids Township acknowledge a most worthy representative in Mr. Wheeler. He was properly called a self made man who in early life was thrown upon his own resources and had many difficulties to contend with.

He had seen much of the pioneer life in Kansas witnessing with warm interest, the growth and development of the region.

He had very little to begin with but later he was a well-to-do man and a man of standing in his community.

He served as School Director in his district, although he never held office socially, he was a member of the G. A. R., Robert Hale Post in Blue Rapids.

On March 13, 1866, he married Sally A. Stewart. To this union a son, William Harrison and a daughter, Henrietta M. (Mrs. Henrietta Burkett) were born.

## FRED A. STOCKS

Honorable Fred A. Stocks was Representative of the 48th District in the House of Representatives of the Kansas Legislature and the only son of Mr. George B. Stocks. He was born in Lena Stephenson County, Illinois, March 25, 1863. He came with his parents to Blue Rapids, Kansas in 1872 at the age of nine.

He attended common schools here. Later he attended college at the State University of Kansas at Lawrence, where he graduated with honors in 1884.

In 1889, he was chosen to deliver the Master's Oration on the occasion of his taking the degree of M. S.

On leaving the University, he entered the bank of Blue Rapids as cashier and manager as equal partnership with his father, who had purchased the bank and building in 1884.

Since that time he became sole manager of the affairs of the bank which was entrusted to his care.

He was placed upon several important Committees. He was on the Ways and Means Committee on the Committee on State Affairs and appointed chairman of the sub committee of the Ways and Means to investigate the affairs of the State University.

Mr. Stocks was a member of the Masonic Fraternity, also a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Society.

Mr. F. A. Stocks passed away in 1901. Burial was in Prospect Hill Cemetery.

## SEWAGE PLANT

The sewage plant, located north of town, was erected in the spring and summer and opened for use on August 16, 1955. This plant cost the taxpayers of Blue Rapids, \$72,000.

## ACTIVE ORGANIZATIONS - 1970

Rotary International No. 4343, Chartered in 1937.

Lion's Club, Chartered in 1955.

Sportsman's Club, Chartered in 1959.



AMERICAN LEGION HALL

American Legion, Chartered in 1920.

American Legion Auxiliary, Chartered in 1923, Rechartered in 1934.



I.O.O.F. - REBEKAH HALL

Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Chartered in 1898, Rechartered in 1951.

Rebekah, Chartered in 1898.

Encampment and Auxiliary, District Organization, Chartered in 1954.



MASONIC LODGE



Masonic Lodge No. 169, A. F. & A. M., Chartered in 1876.  
 Blue Valley Lodge No. 112, A. F. & A. M., United with No. 169 in 1958.  
 Elnora Chapter, Order of Eastern Star No. 179, Chartered in 1896.  
 Irving Order of Eastern Star No. 379, United with Elnora Chapter in 1959.  
 Order of Rainbow for Girls, Chartered in 1957.  
 Order of DeMolay, Chartered in 1967.

#### SCOUT GROUPS

Girl Scouts, Organized in 1932, Revived in 1941.  
 Boy Scouts, Organized in 1926.

#### 4-H CLUB

Wide Awake, Organized in 1932.

#### FEDERATED CLUBS

Tuesday Afternoon, Organized in 1894.  
 Happy Hour, Organized in 1934.  
 Twentieth Century, Organized in 1935.

### CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TEAM OF MANHATTAN DISTRICT, MARCH 17, 1921

The Blue Rapids girls' basketball team won the championship for this district at the tournament at Manhattan last Friday and Saturday. They drew Irving as their first opponent and easily defeated them by a score of 27 to 6. Cleburne was next team to fall before the girls. By defeating Enterprise and Clyde the girls entered the state tournament at Lawrence but were defeated.



The girls on the team are as follows: Left to right, Opal Long, Elizabeth Edwards, Harriett Woolley, Doris Short, Lela Fuller, Julia Lamb, Velma Roark, Bernice Monteith, Gracie Seldon, and the Coach Marjorie Doyle.

### HAZARDS OF BLUE RAPIDS' EARLY DAYS

#### BLIZZARDS

In January of 1888, the worst blizzard that ever raged across Marshall County came into the county. Only sign of a change in the weather was a darkness on the horizon. Settlers worked at wood chopping in shirt sleeves that day. By mid-morning snow began to fall and by mid-afternoon a foot of snow lay on the ground. Then suddenly the wind changed

to hurricane force and by 4 o'clock the sky was as dark as night. The snow was soft, powdery flakes driven hard to suffocating force by the wind.

Thermometers registered 34 degrees below zero before morning and there were 10 foot drifts. There were no lives lost but livestock perished and the settlers were concerned that their shacks might be torn down or they would freeze to death before morning. Those who went through that storm never wished for another such vigil.

#### GREAT PRAIRIE FIRE

On November 17, 1873, a great prairie fire swept across Marshall County in a strip 8 to 10 miles wide, starting at Oketo on the Otoe Reservation. The wind from the northwest swept the fire to the east bank of the Blue River. Grant Ewing wrote that he remembered the fire well, for his mother carried her children to the middle of a 4 acre field of wheat and threw blankets over them. The heat drove rabbits, coyotes and deer into the same field, all too badly frightened to harm one another or to fear human beings.

#### CYCLONE

Friday, May 30, 1879, was the day of the terrific fury of a storm which approached Blue Rapids from the southwest. The gypsum mill of J. V. Coon and Son had the roof torn off, the roof of Wright flour mill was raised. The west roof of the woolen mill was carried away and the flood beat in on the machinery. Fortunately no lives were lost and Blue Rapids suffered slight loss in comparison with the beautiful little city of Irving.

#### DROUGHT

In 1879-80 with a dry, hot summer and failure of crops, business was retarded and enterprise delayed. Resources were running low and people became disheartened. But soon courage returned as the weather changed.

#### THE GREAT FLOODS

June 4, 1903. The Swanson Warehouse fell over and some material from that and the paint room floated off and the interior of the plant was covered with mud.

Damage at the cereal mill, to the machinery and mill products was not beyond repair but 7,000 bushels of corn went down the river.

None of the houses on the flats were taken entirely away but several were moved.

A red flag was hung from Mr. Hula's house Friday morning. The raise in the river during the night making it impossible for them to leave their house which was surrounded by water. Mr. Stryker saw the signal and attempted to get a boat, but as he and his sons couldn't find one, they went to work and made a raft to rescue the family. Just as they got it about done, A. and J. Scott came from the north side of the waters in a boat and brought Mr. Hula's family to dry land. They had to put their livestock in the upstairs of the house to keep them from the water.

The old Copper shop across the road from the Fowler Mill raised up about 8 o'clock Friday morning, turned part way around and started down the river. . .

It was reported water was 6 to 8 feet deep in Union Depot in Kansas City.

There was a great scarcity of boats. Some of the boats along the river had floated off and some were under water and others on the opposite side of the river. Several new boats were made in quick order.



## HIGH WATER NOTES - JUNE 2, 1903

The river was from 32-34 feet above normal. Boats rowed up the draw west of Genesee Street. The wagon bridge east of Irving went out about 8 o'clock Friday morning.

As the water receded the wheat fields that water had covered came again to view--where there had been no current the wheat is looking well.

The water got into Guthrie Brothers ice house about 6 feet, but how much of their summer's supply of ice is damaged.

It is safe to state that no white man ever saw the Blue River as high as it has been the past week and even the traditional high marks of the Indians have been surpassed.

W. H. Thompson says that in the 50's a band of Pottawatomie Indians camped along the old trail just below the Daniel Davis house a short distance from Spring Branch and they said the white man hadn't seen big water--and they had seen water up over the trail. Will says that inasmuch as the water never touched the portion of the trail mentioned--they regarded the Indians story as a "heap big lie"--but the water got up to the trail the past week, and the Pottawatomies were probably telling the truth.

## JUNE 9, 1908

The Blue River a mile wide and doing great damage.

The valley of the Blue is covered with water. The rains became torrents, three and a half to five and a half inches falling at a single storm and the Big and Little Blues kept getting higher and higher until all records--save that of 1903 were broken. Saturday night, three and a half inches fell here and it was more in other places and the rise of the river was reached Sunday forenoon when the water ran over the floor of the bridge at the power dam--running over all the floor except a stretch in the center,



HIGH WATER MARKS



The old "East" Bridge that went out during the 1941 flood.



Blue River Bridge on Highways No. 77 and No. 9. It was dedicated in October of 1950.





Flood scenes of the worst flood in the history of Blue Rapids in 1941.

## 1941 -- JUNE 8

Worst flood in 38 years -- Certain-Teed Mill suffers the greatest single loss in plant merchandise damage. . . . Water rose at the rate of two feet an hour and by June 9,

the river reached the stage where the city experienced its most devastating flood.

The east span of the big iron bridge east of town gave way at ten o'clock Tuesday morning into the river. Shortly after noon the remainder of the structure fell prey to the rapid water and collapsed into the stream. According to varied reports a box car, washed from the siding at Certain-Teed Mill north of town, struck the bridge when it collapsed.

The old iron bridge at the dam, which had been condemned for a number of years, withstood the racing waters, and although the floor of the bridge shows an upheaved condition, because the water at its height was running over the floor, it seemed no less the worse. The water broke out of the river bank at the east end of this bridge, and the current crowded the base of the hills downstream.

The entire fair grounds was covered with water. The only portion of the race track that was visible was a small stretch at the southwest part of the grounds.

As the river at its peak reached from the hills on the north to the hills on the south, the tracks on the Union Pacific railroad bridge went under water, the debris drifting down the stream lodged against the big iron structure.

One mule was drowned at the Certain-Teed Mill. The Warehouse was filled to the ceiling as the water kept rising and box cars were shifted from the siding at the mill. About \$10,000 worth of printed paper bags were lost in the storage room. As the water came in, electric motors were raised as high as possible. Work men led 9 of the mules out of the barn but one balked and could not be led away. It later ran into the deeper water and was seen going downstream in the swift current.

In the lowlands along the river, practically every home was under water. Grain, livestock and household goods were moved up, at the Ted Stryker home on the river; but 24 hours later the water level was half way up on the barn doors, in the home, and in the other buildings. The water stretched southward more than a half mile from their home, to the foot of the hills.

Damage to grain and row crops on all river bottom farms was tremendous and the loss of feed and livestock was a surprising figure.

Inundated homes in the residential sections along the river were badly wrecked. Floors were bulged, woodwork marred, and those under water required plastering. Household furnishings not removed were a total loss.

The railroad fill was not damaged but several hundred yards of track had to be replaced.

The city was in darkness from Monday until Tuesday night. A new substation was erected and there was a limited supply of "juice".

As after all floods that have ravaged the Blue Rapids area, business again resumed the normal pattern of living by the end of the summer.

## DAM BRIDGE UNDER WATER

"Old But Tough" should be the caption here as this cut shows the old bridge over the dam at Blue Rapids. Folks all said this old structure would be the first to go, but it is used to floods and withstood the pressure with only a steady shattering of the diagonal rods that held it rigid. This scene shows that the floor was several feet under water.

In 1903, the water reached the railing on the bridge about 2 feet higher. The last measurement that could be taken at the government bridge the water measured 31.9 feet but went about 4 feet higher which made the river at 31 feet above normal.





DAM BRIDGE UNDER WATER

## ICE JAMS

Many ice jams have occurred on the Big and Little Blue Rivers. The winters were cold and hard.



Scenes of the big ice jam in 1911. Many such scenes occurred along the river and Union Pacific railroad tracks.

## GRASSHOPPER - 1874

In August of 1874, after a summer of severe drought and prevailing west winds the wind changed to the north and with it came myriads of grasshoppers. They presented a haze in the atmosphere and devoured every green thing except peach leaves. Every living thing was stripped except the peaches, and then they began on boards and picket fences--even handles of hoes and rakes.

Every device for their destruction was employed but to no

avail; but finally a scourge broke out among them and then they perished from the effects of the sting.



People were depressed because of their losses and because they dreaded the reappearance of the plague--however, never have they reappeared in such numbers as in that terrible year.

There had been bountiful crop prospects that year and one can not imagine the devastation of the crops, even the forest trees were defoliated in a few days. This calamity befell not only Blue Rapids and surrounding communities but much of Kansas and Nebraska. The result was that many settlers from the western part of the state began to leave their desolated country headed back east. There was a continual tide of forlorn, anxious outfits who had to be fed and quartered free of charge, owing to their needy circumstances. The settlers of the Blue Rapids community did their part in aiding the unfortunate.

## PROGRESS OF THE PLOWS

The first cultivation of the soil in our territory was by roving Indians, who paused long enough to plant a few seeds to grow a few vegetables.

It was not until the white man came, that the soil was cultivated in a more measurable way.

As the Indians retreated from the vast acres of the rolling prairie and the few trees that dotted the valley along our streams, the white man had visions of breaking the sod and conversion of growing crops of grass, grain and vegetables.

But when you have a "sod breaker" plow hitched to a team of slow oxen, the work drags along at a snail's pace.

Had man been outfitted with the machinery of today the job would have been and easy one.

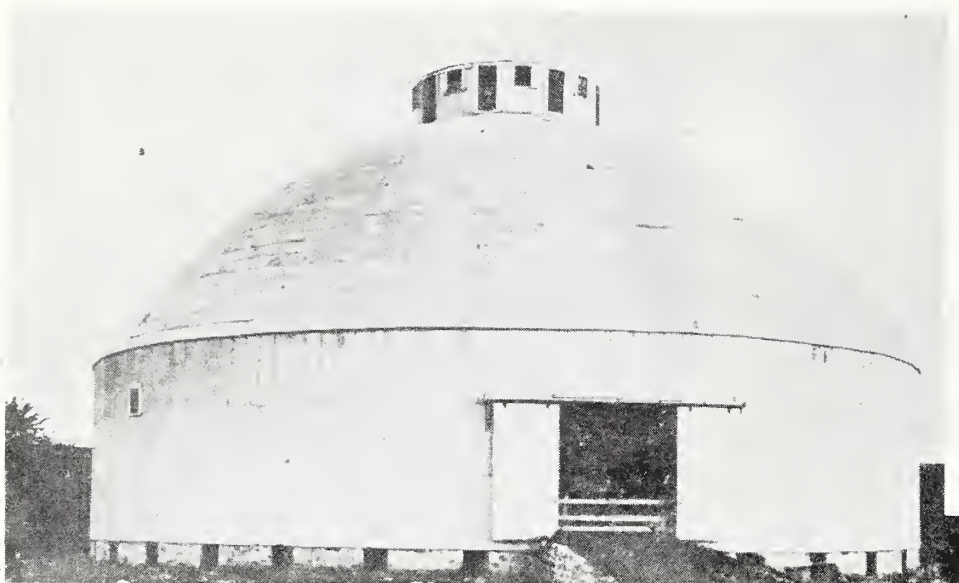
The virgin prairies were broken by the sod buster plows. One person, usually the father, guided the plow while his wife, son or daughter herded the oxen over the area where the freshly up-turned earth sent forth the aroma which instills the spirit with a new inspiration.

But the breaking up by the sod buster was stepped up by the first mouldboard plow--a new era in farming had arrived.

As the horses began to replace the oxen, Old Dobbin was hitched to a new iron walking plow. Some called it "footburner," but it was a time saver and helped to yield more acres of grass to the will of man.

Later came the riding gang plow with two shares which cut the earth and raised it to the moldboard (to turn the dirt)





FRED COTTRELL'S CIRCULAR BARN,  
LAGREST IN THE STATE; 100 FT. DIA.;  
COST \$5000.00

A visit to the "Walnut Row" Stock Farm, two miles east of town, owned by Drennan Brothers, should be particularly interesting to those who admire fine cattle in nice surroundings. Their registered Herefords graze on a hundred hills. Here also was erected this summer one of the finest round cattle barns in the country. Our illustration will give you an idea of its artistic beauty (designed and built by Architect Benton Steele, of Halsted, Kansas, and lumber furnished by the Blue Rapids Lumber Company). Dimensions are 92 feet in diameter, 40 feet to base of cupola, with capacity of 230 tons in one central now, with feeding room for 100 head of cattle around it. Additional room for large quantities of grain and bedding on floors over cattle and equipped with tracks and carriers to expedite matters in handling material to be stored therein.



BARN ON FARM OF GILFORD HONEYCUT



BARN ON FARM OF G. B. LAYTON





To fulfill the inspiration of early settlers, it took cooperation.

with rolling cutters out in front; pulled by four or more horses.

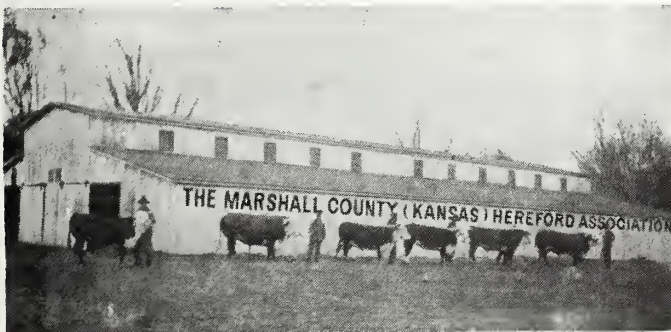
Around 1915, the first tractors began to appear on the farm. With the tractor came the more developed gang plows and the earth yielded as never before.

Plowing has become so advanced that today it has brought about a vast program of the soil.

## LIVESTOCK

The first settlers to the community brought their livestock with them. With the coming of the homesteaders vast changes began to take place. More and more fields of native grass were broken and crops planted. A law was passed which required that a herder be kept with the cattle at all times. The barbed wire was invented and with it's coming the purebred cattle industry was developed.

Blue Rapids had the beginning of the Hereford industry in Kansas and was termed **HEREFORDSHIRE OF KANSAS**. There were more Hereford cattle here at one time than any place else in Kansas. There were more than 2500 Herefords in the county and a Hereford association was organized in the early 1900's. A picture of the barn built at the Riverside park shows where successful sales were held in those early days.



MARSHALL COUNTY HEREFORD ASSOCIATION BARN

Hiram Woodard had brought from Elyria, Ohio, the first pure white faced cattle to stock his farm northeast of Blue Rapids. Other successful breeders in the Blue Rapids area were: Isaac D. Yarick, Augustus Borck, Charles Drennan, W. B. Huint, Judge W. H. Goodwin, Miss Low Goodwin, Clayton Rodkey, John S. Rodkey, F. W. Preston and Son, Walter Morgan, E. R. Morgan, and J. M. Winter.

Other breeding herds that have become important in the locality are Angus, Shorthorn and many of the dairy breed herds. Now, cattle feeding lots are dotting the country. Cattle, as in the early days, are a mainstay of the farm income.

## GENERAL FARMING AREA

The early emigrants of the Blue Rapids community were primarily interested in farming regardless of the industrial growth of the settlement.

Each wagon carried implements to till the soil and as the years have gone by modern methods of farming has enabled the farmer to increase his acreage and modernize his equipment. The family sized farm of 1870 has become a thing of the past.

Main crops raised in this area are wheat, alfalfa, oats and row crops of corn, milo, maize and soybeans.

Pictures shown are a representation of early farming procedure and show a progression of methods and equipment.



STACKING LOOSE HAY BY HAND



FIRST COMBINE REPLACING THE THRESHING MACHINE



SCENE OF CATTLE NEAR BARN





TEAM BRINGING IN WHEAT BUNDLES



SHELLING CORN



MULES USED TO PULL EQUIPMENT



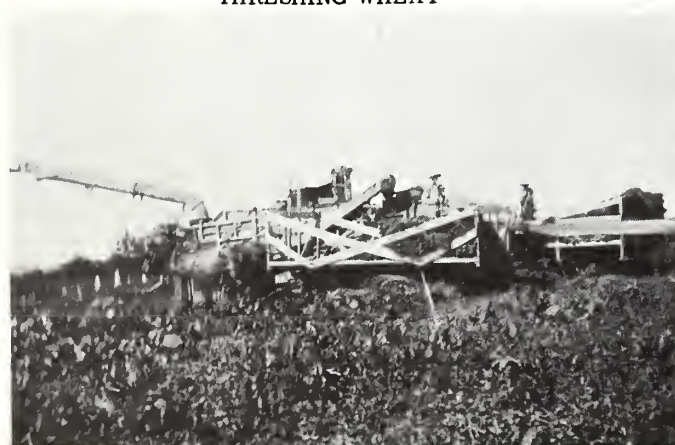
THRESHING WHEAT

#### 1915 A WET YEAR

In 1915, farmers of the area experienced difficulty harvesting in the wet fields. A bull wheel was added to the regular binder wheel to give traction and hold the binder from becoming mired down.



BINDER WITH BULL WHEEL



THRESHING WHEAT



CONSTRUCTION OF OLD DAM





This log cabin was built in this area 100 years ago.

In an old log cabin with its chimney wide,  
Hangs an old steel crane, it was grandma's pride.  
A Wedding gift when a happy bride.  
The bright new steel like silver shone,  
Reflecting the fire on the old hearth stone.  
It was in the days when the pioneer's  
Built great log cabins with smiles and tears,  
Hardships they endured for many long years  
They built for their children log school houses too  
That they might learn to be honest and true.  
In the chimney wide on that old, old crane,  
Hung the hooks for holding kettles of game.

An old tea kettle, as it sung a refrain,  
To the tired people, who read at night,  
By the tallow candles feeble light.  
On the hearth in front of the chimney so wide,  
Great loaves of bread in the oven would hide,  
And the sweet juicy pies the pioneer's pride.  
The fish she would fry, and the biscuits would bake,  
The hominy boil, then the sweet Johny cake,  
Those days have all vanished, but the pioneer smiles  
With their stories of friendship will often beguile  
As they meet as today coming many a mile,  
The pioneers leaving you a heritage grand  
In their history of life in our own Kansas land.



## EARLY DAY HOMES

Many homes of various types of construction were found located in Blue Rapids and the surrounding community.

One of the earliest homes was the log cabin. Many of the farm homes were of the type found in the picture.

Limestone, which is a native stone of this area, was used in



constructing homesite buildings both in town and in the countryside. Many beautiful homes were found in this area.

Limestone rock was used in building these homes in this area.

Then many large residences, of frame construction, dotted the area, in and near Blue Rapids. Many of these homes are still in existence.

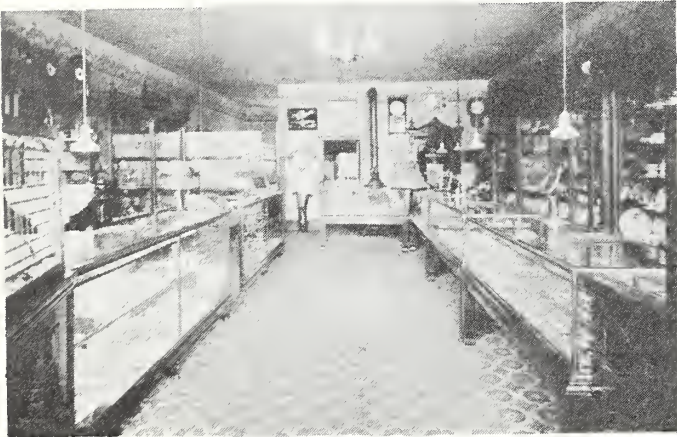


Many events of the early history of Blue Rapids, the facts mentioned or unmentioned, are hidden by the lapse of time from the compilers of this book.

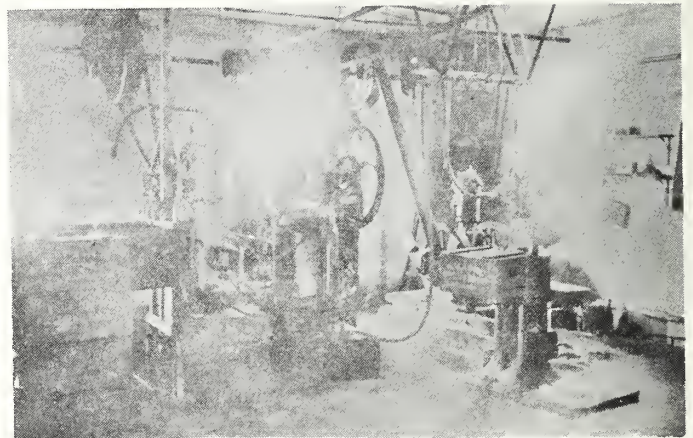
As you know, this is our centennial year, a year to celebrate. Participate, become part of the celebration and it will become one of the greatest experiences in your life.

A hundred years ago - this is looking back ---- now look at the present and hope for the future.

Blue Rapids, like many other towns in the middle west, has never become a metropolis, but it can boast of being the only Blue Rapids in America.



A. A. Marvin - Jeweler and Optician



Blue Rapids Bottling Works, Nevins Bros. and Stephens, Props.



Hill's Meat Market



Interior view of Moser Bros. Clothing Store









PAVE RAPIDS  
5-17-17